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Libya tries to atone for WPC murder

Gadaffi's money fails to reopen diplomatic door

By RICHARD FORD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MOVES by Libya to restore relations with Britain were rebuffed last night after Colonel Gaddafi gave £250,000 to charity to atone for the murder seven years ago of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.

The Foreign Office insisted that Libya must give concrete proof that it had renounced terrorism and cooperate with efforts to bring the killer to justice.

The cheque, along with an expression of regret over the shooting outside the Libyan People's Bureau in London, was delivered to the Foreign Office by the Conservative MP Teddy Taylor after a ten-day visit to Tripoli. He also brought back a package of proposals aimed at restoring full diplomatic relations.

Colonel Gaddafi's proposals were being studied by diplomats last night, but a resumption of diplomatic ties is highly unlikely. Asked by reporters in Paris whether it was time to end Libya's isolation in the wake of French and German moves in that direction, Douglas Hurd

said last night: "We think the Libyan connection is a fairly recent one and an overwhelmingly damaging one, and we are not yet persuaded to follow that line ourselves."

The Foreign Office said: "There can be no improved relations until we have convincing evidence that the Libyans have renounced their support for international terrorism, including the IRA. Yvonne Fletcher is part and parcel of our relationship with Libya. Libya was responsible for an act of terrorism in London and there is no way it can compensate for that act. The real test would be for them to cooperate with us in bringing to justice those who murdered Fletcher." Semtex supplied to the IRA by Libya was still killing UK citizens.

Diplomatic ties were broken after WPC Fletcher was shot while policing an anti-Gaddafi demonstration outside the Libyan embassy building in St James's Square in April 1984. The shot was fired from a first-floor window of the building, which for eleven days was laid to siege by police. The thirty officials inside claimed diplomatic immunity and were later expelled from the country without anyone being arrested.

Now Mr Taylor has brought home from Tripoli a cheque "from the policemen of Libya with the full backing of Libyan ministers" for the Police Dependents' Benevolent Fund. Mr Taylor gave Mr Hurd the Libyan package during a 45-minute meeting earlier this week.

Mr Taylor declined to say yesterday what was in the

package, but said: "I had a long discussion with Colonel Gaddafi which was very useful. I found him a very deep person who seemed anxious to convey the single fact that there had been a change in policy in Libya. Specific proposals were made on a large number of issues which I think are very significant indeed and, in addition, there was this gesture on behalf of Yvonne Fletcher."

WPC Fletcher's mother, Queenie Fletcher, described the move as a cynical publicity stunt. "He seems to think he can pay some blood money and that will sort it all out," she said.

The gesture is the latest in a series of moves to improve relations with the West and only yesterday, the Libyan leader signed an agreement with the Italian prime minister aimed at working towards better relations.

The Libyan leader maintained a neutral stance during the Gulf war and last month his foreign minister, Ibrahim Bishari, called on Britain and America to resume normal relations. He said that Libya opposed all form of terrorism and pledged not to produce weapons of mass destruction.

The remnants of the two most militant Palestinian terrorist groups have been expelled and Libya is believed to have abandoned its role as an arms supplier to the IRA in 1987. However, the IRA is believed to have enough Libyan weaponry to sustain their campaign of violence into the next century.

Change of image, page 3



Fatherly touch: the Pope blessing a sick girl during a visit yesterday to a children's hospital at Olstyna in his Polish homeland. Fitness check, page 9

Rifkind ready to rescue BR development plans

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Rifkind, the transport secretary, said yesterday that the government was ready to help British Rail to withstand a cash shortage that threatens its investment plans. He declined to specify how much additional money would be made available, but pointed to the generous settlement given to BR in last year's public spending round.

The disclosure of BR's difficulties is an embarrassment to the government, coming within a week of two speeches by Mr Rifkind setting out his policy to switch more passenger and freight business from road to rail. Ministers, however, were cautious yesterday in responding to suggestions that BR had imposed a freeze on investment at the start of discussion of this year's expenditure round.

BR said it had stopped current authorisation of investment projects, which include improvements to the West Coast Euston to Scotland line, the Channel tunnel passenger terminal in Kent and the Paddington-Heathrow fast-rail link, until it knew how much money it would be allowed to spend. "We are still in discussion with the government about our budget for the current financial year," a spokesman said, adding: "Until the budget is settled we won't know what is in our programme or what isn't."

Mr Rifkind said: "British Rail do have financial problems this year. Their income

from property investment and from passengers has significantly fallen below what they budgeted for. They have asked us for a mid-year increase, which in itself is rather unusual because it would have to come from reserves and that is



obviously an important matter. "The government accepts that some increase will be necessary. We will be discussing with them what that should be and in the meantime they are very sensibly being cautious about new investment."

Every year for the past 30 years BR had had investment aspirations that no government had been able to realise in full. Mr Rifkind told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*: "I have not the slightest doubt that this year will not be any different. I would be astonished if it was," he said.

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, said on the programme that it was no use Mr Rifkind emphasising his commitment to BR unless he matched it with money. He said there should be an end to "silly Treasury rules" which prevented BR seeking private investment.

1922 chief sees Thatcher

MARGARET Thatcher and Cranley Onslow, the chairman of the party's powerful 1922 committee, met yesterday, three days after her meeting with John Major (Nigel Williamson writes). Party unity, and the apparent rift between her supporters and the prime minister, were probably high on the agenda.

The 15-minute meeting in her Westminster office, held at

Mr Onslow's request, is believed to have been the first since he led the delegation of "men in grey suits" last November to tell Mrs Thatcher that her position as leader was untenable.

Many Tory MPs have voiced their worries about an apparent Major-Thatcher rift to Mr Onslow.

Parliament, politics, page 8

SPORT IN THE TIMES

OUT...

The French Open became closed to Steffi Graf as she suffered her biggest defeat in seven years in Paris yesterday Page 40

OUT...

Graeme Hick, seven years qualifying for England, qualified for a return to the pavilion in just 51 minutes against West Indies Page 40

OUT...

Ron Atkinson, whose indecision had seemed final, finally decided that he would leave Sheffield Wednesday Page 40

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Lauda transcript

A cockpit transcript of the minutes before the Lauda Air crash details the crew's fight to interpret warnings Page 24

Police accused

Four detectives of the West Midlands serious crime squad rigged evidence against a man who was later jailed, a court was told Page 3

Car sales fall

Sales of new cars last month fell by 30 per cent, the worst May since 1975 Page 4

Food aid halted

The UN has suspended relief food shipments to Iraq after allegations that Saddam Hussein has taken food destined for the Kurds Page 13

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Major eases Tory tensions on EMU

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister moved yesterday to defuse Conservative tensions on Europe by underlining that the economies of the European Community's 12 countries must come into line before it could consider a single currency.

As the European debate resurfaced among Tory MPs, John Major again emphasised that there could be no imposition of a single currency. He said the "prerogatives" of Parliament must be preserved. A Commons debate is to be held before the Luxembourg

summit on EMU later this month. □ Labour's commanding lead over the Conservatives was confirmed last night by a Gallup poll putting it eight points ahead. The survey for *The Daily Telegraph* is in line with those published at the weekend. The figures (with last month's in brackets) are: Labour 41.5 per cent (38), Conservatives 33.5 (38.5), Liberal Democrats 21 (18), and others 4 (5.5).

Delaying tactics, page 8

Bleak summer ahead for hay fever sufferers

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TOMORROW will be the worst day of the year so far for hay fever sufferers, experts predicted yesterday. This is particularly bad news for Norma Major and Rod Stewart, who have already had a tough week.

The prime minister's wife abandoned a visit to a health centre and the veteran rock star scratched a concert in Glasgow from his world tour because of the condition that affects at least five million people in Britain.

According to the pollen research unit at North London polytechnic, this summer will be the worst in three years for victims of the allergy, and tomorrow will mark the start



Checking the count in Rotherham yesterday

of it. Last month was the driest May for 95 years; the growth of grass was not a problem. But widespread rain fall in the last few days has been followed by slowly climbing temperatures. That combination has set the grass

up nicely for the summer, producing ideal conditions for high pollen counts.

"The counts have been low until now but we expect them to reach a high on Saturday," Jean Emberlin, director of the research unit, said yesterday. "Last year and the year before were rather short, sharp hay fever seasons because drought and dry weather stopped grass growing. Although last month was also very dry, there has been quite a lot of rain across the country this week and temperatures are gradually returning to the norm for June."

"Pollen counts will be high on Saturday, and if the weather behaves according to predictions, we forecast the worst summer for three years

for people suffering from hay fever," Dr Emberlin said.

Mrs Major got within 200 yards of a reception committee at a health authority building in Huntingdon on Wednesday before a hay fever attack forced her to abandon the event. She had been unwell earlier in the day and was taken home by a nurse.

An allergy provoked a throat complaint that obliged Rod Stewart to cancel his concert in Glasgow last night. His manager said that his world tour will resume in Manchester tonight.

Owen on Irish talks list of chairmen

By EDWARD GORMAN IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Owen and Lady Warnock are among names put forward as possible chairmen of the talks on Northern Ireland's future.

Lady Warnock, who chaired the enquiry into human fertilisation, was among three distinguished figures to turn down the chance, but last night Dr Owen would not comment on the matter.

The baroness, who is married to an Ulster Protestant, said she was sure she could fulfil this most difficult of tasks in an unbiased manner, but believed, because of family connections, she would not be perceived in this way by politicians at the talks.

Professor Colin Campbell, vice-chancellor of Nottingham University, was not prepared to accept. Another name, perhaps mischievously included by Jim Molyneux, the UUP leader, was Conor Cruise O'Brien, the former Irish diplomat and columnist for *The Times*, who believes the initiative should be abandoned. Dr O'Brien said last night the possibility of him accepting would not arise.

The Irish government and the SDLP are thought to regard Dr Owen as unsuitable. Last night he said he had learnt that he was on the list only from yesterday's newspapers.

George Shepperson, former William Robertson professor of Commonwealth and American history at Edinburgh University, seemed flabbergasted when told he had been nominated. He would keep his options open.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and his team at the Northern Ireland Office are now believed to be considering around 25 names offered by the Unionists and Dublin, plus an unknown number of their own.

Other names on Mr Molyneux's list include Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal, the former secretary-general of the Commonwealth, and Sir Philip Foreman, the former managing director of Shorts aerospace company in Belfast. An earlier list supplied by Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist party leader, included Viscount Tonyand, Lord Lowry, Merlyn Rees, Baron Havers, and Mr Justice Enoch Dumbuthena.

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Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 19

Gorbachev aims for immortal glory with library

The Soviet president plans a more tangible monument than an interpretation of Lenin, Mary Dejevsky writes

Should you be wondering whether Gorbachev (or more likely when he comes to London next month, do not despair if your finances will not run to the \$100bn or so he needs to save perestroika. There is an alternative. A rare book, preferably of unique cultural importance, will do very well instead.

Mikhail Gorbachev, it transpires, intends to become the first Soviet leader to bequeath to the next generation something more tangible than a new interpretation of Marx and Lenin. As a spokesman for his office confirmed yesterday, he is planning to establish a library, to be known as the President's Library.

The project has been quietly in train for six months, but came to light only this week when Mr Gorbachev's wife, Raisa, alluded to the "President's Library" while in Oslo, after being presented with a medieval Bible.

The research and organisation is being overseen by Mr Gorbachev's chief of cabinet, Valeri Boldin, and officials have travelled around Europe in search of advice and possible models. The fact that it will have at least one ancient Scandinavian Bible on its shelves indicates that it is intended to offer a broad world historical, rather than narrowly Russian or Soviet, perspective.

Yesterday, Mr Gorbachev's office was keen to dispel any suggestion that the Soviet leader had copied the tradition established by retiring American presidents who solicit funds to endow a library at the end of their time in office. The suggestion that the Soviet presidential library might be built in the provincial town of Stavropol in southern Russia, where the president grew up and began his career, was ridiculed along the lines of: Continued on page 24, col 1

Arms deal hope, page 24

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Troubled union heads for two-way merger in power struggle



Edmonds: merger talks with Ucat officials

THE beleaguered building union Ucat, whose suspended general secretary is taking legal action against it today in the High Court, is facing a virtual take-over by Britain's second largest union.

The break-up of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, currently the eighth-largest union in the TUC, would be the biggest since the Union of Democratic Mineworkers pulled away from the main NUM following the 1984-5 miners' strike.

The decision yesterday by the GMB general union to seek a merger with Ucat follows secret talks earlier this week between Ucat officials and John Edmonds, GMB's general secretary, at the GMB's annual conference in Bournemouth.

The move is certain to split Ucat, with right-wingers likely to lead a substantial portion of the

union into the GMB, while the new left-wing Ucat leadership may take the rest into the TGWU transport workers' union. The move will be made even more likely if, as expected, Bill Morris, the TGWU's deputy general secretary and the left candidate for the union's top job, is elected TGWU general secretary in results to be announced today.

Ucat right-wingers, led by two of the union's national officials and a number of regional secretaries, talks with the EETPU electricians' union about breaking away from the building union. It emerged yesterday, however, that Ucat right-wingers called off the talks earlier this week and instead travelled to Bournemouth for a secret meeting on Tuesday night with Mr Edmonds.

At the meeting, GMB leaders were told that Ucat was near to

A split in the Ucat builders' union is imminent as its left and right wings battle, Philip Bassett writes

collapse, that the union had been unable to meet its wages bill for June until it sold some shares, and that financial contributions had fallen by 30 per cent since the results of re-run elections for the union's executive council were announced.

Ucat leaders said that they were seeking a merger with the GMB rather than the EETPU because the GMB was affiliated to the TUC, whereas the electricians were thrown out of the TUC three years ago for refusing to accept TUC decisions on two single-union deals. At a private emer-

gency meeting of the GMB's central executive council yesterday morning in Bournemouth, the GMB agreed in principle to establish a new section of the union for construction workers, in effect sanctioning a merger with the Ucat right, who believe they can bring up to 60,000 members and perhaps 14 full-time officials over to the GMB. Earlier this week, and alone among major unions, the GMB announced a membership increase of 106,000, achieved largely through merging.

Albert Williams, Ucat's general secretary, will today seek an injunction at the High Court aimed at lifting the suspension imposed on him by the union's executive following the election of three left-wingers, giving the left a 3-2 majority.

The left's election in a re-run ballot followed lengthy and re-

peated allegations by both left and right in Ucat of ballot rigging and financial improprieties. The new executive has appointed an acting general secretary and called in a leading lawyer to mount an investigation into the running and finances of the union.

The successful left-wingers fought their election on an anti-rigging platform, and one of continued independence for Ucat, rather than merger. However, some on the left claim to have been so appalled at the state of the union's finances now they have seen the books that they believe independence may no longer be possible.

Today's new TGWU leader will be eager for any merger, since at a time when mergers are dominating unions as membership plummets, the TGWU has not merged with another union for a decade.



Morris: likely winner in TGWU election

Race equality laws 'failing to provide protection'

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL reassessment of policies aimed at countering racial discrimination is being sought by the Policy Studies Institute which says existing safeguards are far too weak.

In a report out today, the institute says confusion surrounding the aims of the 1976 Race Relations Act has meant progress towards greater racial equality in Britain has been slow. In particular, it says, a decision is needed over whether legislation should be primarily used to help individual complainants or the ethnic community as a whole.

The report, funded by the Home Office, says that if the priority is combating discrimination on a community basis the government must introduce on mainland Britain the kind of tough legal measures which apply in Northern Ireland. This would probably involve the revamping of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) along the lines of the Fair Employment Commission for Northern Ireland.

Employers in the province are legally bound to monitor the ethnic and religious make-up of their workforces and to supply returns to the commission. The latter, unlike the CRE, puts greater weight on actively promoting equal opportunity, rather than simply curbing discrimination.

The institute, however, says that if the main aim is to help individuals seek redress less sweeping reform is required.

The report, entitled *Racial Justice at Work*, says the 1976 Act, while a big advance on earlier legislation, has failed to curb substantially discrimination in employment and the provision of public services such as council housing.

It notes that the CRE has not issued a non-discrimination notice, its main weapon, since 1983 and that the Act has done little to curb institutional discrimination which, for example, expresses itself in written job tests that assume a detailed appreciation of European culture.

Hopes that industrial tribunals would provide a useful avenue of redress have also only partly been realised. While petitions to tribunals have risen sharply since 1976, many cases have had to be dropped because complainants lacked the funds for legal representation or the expertise to handle cases themselves.

"A rational person would not embark on the process of making a complaint... to a tribunal purely for the prospect of a monetary compensation which amounts to an 18 per cent chance of obtaining a sum of £500 or more after a procedure lasting six to 12

months," the report concludes. Noting that in Northern Ireland victims of discrimination can receive up to £30,000 in compensation, the institute believes there is a strong case for increasing the scale of damages.

Other steps which it believes should be examined include: extending legal aid to applicants involved in industrial tribunal race cases; improving training for tribunal members; and mounting advisory campaigns by the CRE in the wake of tribunal cases.

The CRE last night welcomed the report, saying that it was only too aware of the weaknesses of the 1976 Act. It believed tougher legislation was required in the mould of the 1989 Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act.

However, it rebutted the assertions that it had not done enough to combat indirect discrimination and had allowed formal investigations against employers to decline.

"We do not undervalue the impact of formal investigations in particular circumstances. But in our experience working with employers to change practice may often achieve results more quickly and with less demand on our resources," it said.



On the record: Norman Evans, a keeper at the Public Record Office, with documents including Shakespeare's will and Nelson's diary

Public records leave Chancery Lane after 600 years

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL archive treasures such as the Domesday Book, Magna Carta, Shakespeare's will (in which he leaves his second best bed to his wife), Guy Fawkes's confession, Wellington's despatch from Waterloo and the Jack the Ripper papers are to leave the gothic solemnity of Chancery Lane for the green fields of suburban Surrey. The Public Record Office in central London is to close.

The Lord Chancellor, who is responsible for the Public Record Office, has accepted the report of the prime minister's efficiency unit and the office, opened 140 years ago to

bring the public legal record from 50 repositories under one roof, will close in 1995. The future of the building, which was restored, cleaned and rewired for computer technology at a cost of £6 million seven years ago, will be decided this winter. In 1977 a new £10 million branch was built at Kew to take the modern records, and an extension is now to be added to take older material.

It will not go gently. Lord Russell, professor of history at King's College London, said yesterday: "We are saving money now at the expense of a future generation. I think the govern-

ment has miscalculated. The new extension will only accommodate records up to 2012, but beyond that it will mean another extension."

The savings will be £2 million a year, according to Michael Roper, who retires next year as possibly the last keeper of the public record; to be replaced, perhaps, by a chief executive. That was 10 per cent of the annual costs, and the bonus could be longer opening hours, he said. "It is sad, but I think there was no choice if we were to make the savings we must, offer a better public service and prepare for the next century."

Public records have been kept in Chancery Lane since the 13th century. The office was created in 1838 but it was inefficient until Henry Cole, who later founded the Victoria and Albert Museum, reorganised the archives in the 1840s. James Pennethorne's new Chancery Lane cathedral was built to hold them in 1852.

Use of the Public Record Office has increased by over 1,000 per cent since the second world war, and the old building has suffered. Almost 150,000 readers a year use the records, compared with 5,500 in 1945, and 300 a day use the Chancery Lane building.

Service contrasts the lighter and darker shades of Greene

By ALAN HAMILTON

IF GRAHAM Greene has found his heaven, he is probably calling even now for pen and paper. Shortly before he died in April, the novelist wrote that he pictured paradise as a place of activity, where the dead were given the power to help the living.

Knowing that a celestial eye might be watching, the living who ordered his memorial service in Westminster Cathedral yesterday took the precaution of conducting the requiem mass in the traditional Latin Greene so loved

in case there should be telepathic traffic in the other direction. When Greene embraced the Roman faith in 1926 he took the confirmation name of Thomas, the doubting one, and ended his life professing himself at best a Catholic agnostic. The living did their best to restore his full membership.

Dr Roderick Strange, former Catholic chaplain to Oxford University, said in a homily that Greene had taken the name of the patron saint of those who wrestled with faith

and doubt. "It was Graham's extraordinary grace to see the power, strength and virtue in failure. He was faithful to that vision, that sense of virtue within failure."

The clergy, however, did not mention, and most of the packed congregation would have not have noticed, that Greene's widow sat on one side of the church while his mistress of many years, Mme Yvonne Cloetta, sat on the other. They did not meet, and left by different doors.

Louise Denny, Greene's niece, said that a writer was the most public of people and the most private of people, and none more so than Graham. "It is the private man we will miss now."

Father Leopoldo Duran, Greene's close friend who conducted his funeral service in Switzerland, said after yesterday's service: "He was an extraordinary man. And the most extraordinary thing was his modesty." If the dead can blush, the former sub-editor of *The Times* will be pink behind his celestial typewriter.

Diary, page 18



Safely apart: Greene's mistress Yvonne Cloetta, left, and widow Vivien, at yesterday's service

Baker rules out police shake-up

By STEWART TENDLER

KENNETH BAKER, the home secretary, last night quashed speculation of radical changes in police organisation. He promised that the government had no plans to create either a national force or super-regional forces in this parliament or the next.

Speaking at the end of the conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Chester, Mr Baker said there had been continual media speculation about the future of the police, fuelled by the Commons home affairs select committee, the Audit Commission, the Police Federation and others.

"I do not see there is a need for a major change. I have absolutely no plans to introduce fundamental change," he said.

There was no "hidden plan waiting to emerge. And I certainly don't believe bigger necessarily means better."

Government proposals for alterations to local government, as a result of rethink on the poll tax, did not imply change to police organisation.

IRA rifle 'used in at least four killings'

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A CHARGED rifle found next to the bodies of the three IRA men killed by the SAS in the Co Tyrone village of Coagh on Monday, had been used to kill at least four people, according to the police.

The weapon was used to kill as recently as April, further supporting the case that the men - who the IRA said were on "active service" - were prepared to kill and most probably had killed before.

According to the police, the rifle, thought to be an AK47, was first used in the murder of three Protestants at a garage in Coagh a few hundred yards from where the IRA men met their deaths. Forensic tests show that the rifle had been used on March 7, 1989, to kill Leslie Dallas, the owner of the garage who the IRA later said belonged to the Ulster Volunteer Force. In the same incident it also killed Ernest Rankin, aged 72, and Austin Nelson, aged 62, who the IRA said had been shot by accident in the "confusion" on the garage forecourt.

On April 9 the weapon was used to kill Derek Ferguson, a cousin of the Rev William McCrea, the Ulster Unionist MP for Mid Ulster, who was shot at his mobile home by the IRA, also in Coagh.

The pattern at Coagh has been repeated many times over 20 years of the troubles. Last week, for example, an inquest in Belfast was told that a Browning semi-automatic pistol dropped by Michael Stone, a loyalist killer who attacked mourners at a republican funeral in Belfast in 1988, had since been used by the IRA in so-called punishment shootings and murders.

Recycling of weapons by the IRA does not necessarily mean that there is a shortage of weapons. The IRA probably has tens of thousands of Kalashnikovs, sent by Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, but is determined to use them sparingly, saving its resources for what it calls the long war.

Among loyalist gunmen, recycling is also common. This was particularly so before January 1988 when weapons were scarce until the three main loyalist armed groups organised a big shipment of weapons from Europe.

Dog control may go to outside agencies

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PRIVATE agency or a commercial company may be used by the government to administer the issue of permits for pitbull terriers under new legislation. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said last night.

His announcement at the conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers indicates that a compromise may be struck over the legislation after police anxiety that they would be saddled with a bureaucracy they did not want.

Mr Baker said that the system he had agreed would mean that the police would enforce the law. When the act becomes law next month, new offences will be created covering the dogs, and by November it will be illegal to own one without an exemption.

Between those dates, owners will have to go to police stations to register their pitbull terriers. This information, Mr Baker said, would be passed on to an agency which would send an application form to be completed and sent back with a certificate of neutering and insurance. This would give the owner an exemption to keep the dog.

He said that various agencies were prepared to take on the task but he would not specify which ones they were. He said, however, that the interested agencies included an animal welfare agency and that the task was a matter of computer work and administration.

The home secretary said that by bringing in the new measures, ownership of the dogs would decline and would become socially unacceptable. The dogs, he added, had to be removed from society.

Royal stitches

Prince William had 24 stitches in the operation on his head after being accidentally hit with a golf club by a fellow pupil on Monday. His father, the Prince of Wales, revealed that yesterday while speaking to winners of the Prince's Youth Business Trust awards in London. He said his son would have to take it easy for a while, but the boy who wielded the club "must be feeling much worse".

Chess hopes

Michael Adams, aged 19, from Truro, Cornwall, who became the youngest British champion in 1989 and was also the youngest British player to become a grandmaster, is racing for the lead with just one round to go with the Estonian grandmaster Jan Elihvist in the international tournament at Terrassa, near Barcelona, Spain. The tournament ends today.

Today's Times carries a special section on chess. The Times is available in paperback for 20p. The Times is available in paperback for 20p. The Times is available in paperback for 20p.

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مكتبة القرآن

Crime squad men accused of rigging robbery evidence

By CRAIG SETON

FOUR detectives of the West Midlands serious crime squad, including its second in command, rigged damaging evidence against a man who was later convicted and jailed for five years for robbery, a court was told yesterday.

Notes were invented of a conversation and an interview with the robbery suspect, in which he was purported to have admitted his guilt. Detectives presented the evidence on oath at the man's trial, although the interview had never taken place.

Jurors at the trial of the four detectives were told yesterday that they would have to consider whether the officers had committed important and evil breaches of the rules.

Retired Detective Constable Michael Quin, aged 51, Detective Sergeant David Ford, 38, and Detective Inspector Terry Mills, 48, all from Birmingham, each deny charges of attempting to pervert the course of justice and perjury in 1986 and 1987.

They allegedly lied and committed forgery after the arrest of Keith Parchment, a West Indian from Birmingham. He was jailed for five years at Birmingham crown court in 1987 when found guilty of a £5,000 street robbery.

Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, told Oxford crown court yesterday: "The law requires that the stream and course of justice must be pursued unswayed by falsity. Even if a police officer believes in the guilt of a person, that he should attempt by

lying, falsity and forgery to secure the conviction of that person is quite unacceptable in a civilised society."

He said that Parchment was arrested a month after three West Indians carried out a street robbery on a company manager in Birmingham in 1986. Det Sergeant Ball falsely concocted notes of a conversation with Parchment in a police car, in which the arrested man was purported to have made incriminating statements. The notes were signed as correct by Det Constable Quin, who was also in the car.

Later, at a Birmingham police station, Mr Quin made notes of a purported interview with Parchment, which contained an expressed admission of guilt. Det Sergeant Ford had signed those notes, but Parchment refused to sign them himself.

Mr Worsley said the Police and Criminal Evidence Act carried a safeguard that if a prisoner refused to sign notes of an interview, a senior officer had to sign them, certifying that they had been seen by him at a certain time. The provision was designed to prevent untrue allegations by prisoners that notes had been invented later.

Mr Worsley said that Det Inspector Mills, at the time the second-in-command of the Serious Crime Squad, had certified the notes to the effect that he had read them. The Crown alleged there was no such interview at the police station.

Mr Worsley said the four officers had all made witness statements containing the same matters as the records of the interviews with Parchment. He added: "All four of these defendants, pursuing the same plan of rigging an important part of the evidence falsely against this man, went into the witness box one by one on oath and said that Parchment had said these things."

What they had done was a criminal offence, regardless of whether the person against whom false evidence had been given was innocent or guilty. Mr Worsley said that scientific evidence would be called which would demonstrate that the notes had been examined. At least one of eight pages of notes had been doctored and altered.

Evidence of indentations on the pages would also show that some part of the interview notes had been rewritten. It would also be demonstrated that it was highly unlikely, to say the least, that the notes could have been written out and read to the prisoner in the times that were stated. Mr Worsley asked the jury to ignore publicity about recent cases in which the police and scientific processes had come in for criticism.

He also said that Parchment would be giving evidence. He would not be put before the court as a saintly character. He had been in trouble before with offences for dishonesty. "Saintly or not, he is entitled not to be convicted on perjured evidence supported by false documents," Mr Worsley added.

The trial continues today.



The four accused: Anthony Ball, left, Michael Quin, Terry Mills and David Ford arriving at Oxford crown court yesterday for the first day of their trial

Woman's rape cash cancelled

By JULIAN ROLLS

DAMAGES of £12,500 awarded to a woman who sued her former boy friend for rape damages were cancelled by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court told Carol Moore, aged 29, that if she wishes to pursue her compensation claim against Wayne Green, she must take the case to a retrial.

The rare civil damages claim, in which Mrs Moore, of Copner, Portsmouth, won £7,500 compensation for rape and £5,000 for a pregnancy and abortion which she claimed resulted from the rape, was heard by Judge

Griffiths at Portsmouth county court last September.

Allowing an appeal by Mr Green, a boxer, of Portsmouth, Southampton, Lord Justices Neill, Balcombe and Bingham said that he was entitled to a retrial as fresh evidence had come to light.

Lord Justice Balcombe said that Mrs Moore claimed that Mr Green, aged 33, had continuously rung her doorbell and that when she finally opened the door forced her inside and raped her. However, new evidence showed that, during the time Mr Green was said to have been outside and inside her home,

Mrs Moore had two telephone conversations with another former boy friend. BT records were said to show that during the five to ten minutes that she claimed the rape occurred, she was speaking on the telephone.

Last November, Judge Griffiths refused to order a retrial, saying that the fresh evidence would not change the judgment. But that decision was overruled by the appeal judges. Lord Justice Bingham said that the new evidence was potentially important and Mr Green could be "justifiably aggrieved" over what had happened.

Another gesture as Gadafi alters his image

Christopher Walker explains from Cairo the reasoning behind Libya's £250,000 gift to a British police charity

COLONEL Gadafi's unexpected £250,000 contribution to a British police fund is the latest and most dramatic of a string of gestures by which he has tried to transform his former image as the bogymon of the Middle East and from Libya from its damaging isolation.

Much of the gradual switch towards a more moderate approach is attributed to the influence of Egypt's President Mubarak who is understood to have persuaded the unpredictable Libyan leader to take a much less radical stand during the Gulf war than might have been expected.

In recent months, the remnants of the two most militant Palestinian terrorist groups, the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu Abbas and the Abu Nidal organisation, have been expelled from Libya and forced to set up new headquarters in Baghdad where President Saddam Hussein has assumed the colonel's mantle as the main Arab backer of international terrorists.

Colonel Gadafi's desire to free himself from former associations was shown in a bizarre interview in which he ascribed continuing reports of Abu Nidal's connections with Libya to a confusion of identities with another "Abu Nidal" living there. For once, the western intelligence agencies took him at his word.

Last month the gestures were backed by a call from Libya's foreign minister, Ibrahim al-Bishari to the US and Britain to resume relations broken off in 1981 and 1984 respectively. He said that the country was not supporting terrorists, destabilising other nations or producing chemical weapons. The minister also invited the American oil companies, which pulled out as part of the US economic sanctions, to return.

Mr al-Bishari, who has been prominent in portraying Libya's new "softer" image, claimed that his country had normal relations with all European states except Britain, although the volume of trade between them was huge and 7,000 Britons lived in Libya. "With an open mind and full realism, we want to establish good relations with that country," he declared.

The withdrawal of overt support for terror groups and a less radical foreign policy has been accompanied by a two-year period of gradual economic liberalisation at



Mrs Queenie Fletcher at her home in Wiltshire under a picture of Yvonne, her policewoman daughter killed outside the Libyan People's Bureau in London in 1984; right, her memorials; below, colleagues giving help after the shooting



home. Many diplomats think that Colonel Gadafi, who some believe has genuinely mellowed with age, is looking chiefly to financial benefits from his moderation. "He wants cash and investment so that he can keep his young people at bay," one European diplomat explained.

In spite of the surface changes which have been accompanied by a closer relationship with both Egypt and Syria, some Western nations remain unconvinced that the colonel has under-

gone a full conversion.

In March, US officials alleged that Libya was building a new plant to produce chemical weapons and had also been manufacturing large amounts of poison gas about 60 miles from Tripoli at Rabta, once thought to have been destroyed by fire. "There is convincing evidence that Libya is continuing its chemical weapon programme," Rear Admiral Thomas Brooks, director of US Naval Intelligence, said.

Colonel Gadafi who remained neutral in the Gulf

war and suffered none of the taint in the West that Jordan's King Husain did, is also proud not to have altered his hardline stance on Israel, whose right-wing government still suspects him of maintaining covert terrorist links. "Israel does not exist," he said in a recent television interview. "It must disappear from circulation."

What is generally accepted by intelligence sources is that the Libyan link as an arms supplier to the Provisional IRA, broken in 1987, has not been re-established.

Sentence is cut for informer who fears for life

By BILL FROST

AN UNDERWORLD informer was yesterday given a 13-year reduction on his sentence in recognition of information he had passed on to detectives investigating serious crimes.

Lawrence Cain, aged 33, from Brixton, southwest London, said to have a £250,000 contract on his head, was jailed for seven years because of "the valuable help" he had given police. The judge last month jailed one of Cain's associates for 21 years.

Detective Inspector Chris Jarratt of the Flying Squad told Judge Mitchell, QC: "He will be serving a life sentence and always looking over his shoulder because they will try to shoot him." The detective said that there would be a "lot of underworld kudos" attached to the killing of a supergrass.

Cain's evidence last month put three of his former gang members, including his best man, behind bars for a total of 52 years. His confessions enabled detectives to clear up 43 armed raids, most of them on National Westminster bank branches, in which £300,000 had been taken. David Walters, for Cain, said that his client would be serving his sentence in isolation.

The judge said he would have given Cain, whose underworld nickname is The Snake, a sentence in excess of 20 years if he had not turned Queen's evidence. Cain's wife, from Thailand, has fled back home to her family and is in fear of her life. She too was a target for the underworld, who were desperate to get revenge on the supergrass, Cain's counsel said.

Cain admitted taking part in 27 raids across the South-East between October 1983 and January last year. The robberies financed his love of foreign travel and serviced his £300-a-day heroin habit, the court was told. Cain spent "a fortune" repeatedly travelling to Bangkok and also visited The Gambia frequently.

Last night Cain was being detained at a secret location. He was smuggled out of a back exit of the court and not taken to the Central Criminal Court cells because police feared that he would be attacked.

Last month Cain's partner, Alan Condon, aged 37, of Streatham Hill, south London, was jailed for 21 years. Cain's best man, Andrew Antoniou, aged 32, of South Norwood, south London, was sentenced to 16 years, and William Harding, aged 32, of Thamesmead, was given 15 years.

Cain spent ten days in the witness box giving evidence against his former colleagues. The trial of the three men, which lasted five months, is estimated to have cost the taxpayer £500,000.

Cain told the jury: "No one will come near me unless it is to kill me." His counsel said that he had turned informer to divorce himself from the criminal fraternity.

Saatchi dispute adjourned

By ROBIN YOUNG

A JUDGE in chambers yesterday adjourned the hearing of applications for injunctions from both sides in the dispute between Charles Saatchi, of the advertising agency, and the James Tennant, brother of Lord Glenconner.

Mr Justice Kennedy reserved the hearing of future applications in the matter, in which both sides accuse the other of harassment and nuisances, to himself and gave directions for the future conduct of the litigation.

Solicitors for both sides at the High Court yesterday said that the case might end in open court in some months' time.

Before the hearing Mr Saatchi's solicitors issued a statement replying to Mr Tennant's allegations that Mr Saatchi's building works on his £1.75 million house in St Leonard's Terrace, Chelsea, southwest London, had caused £100,000 damage to his own property.

The statement said that Mr and Mrs Saatchi had "suffered a barrage of verbal abuse and unreasonable behaviour, often offensive and racist in nature, and vandalism" since moving into their house.

Yard officers in Sofia to see evidence of Markov murder

By BILL FROST

SCOTLAND Yard anti-terrorist branch detectives travelled to Bulgaria yesterday to examine newly released evidence on the murder of Georgi Markov, the dissident writer and broadcaster killed with a poison-laced umbrella in London.

The arrival in Sofia of the two officers coincided with a statement from Khristo Danov, Bulgaria's interior minister, promising swift and "sensational" disclosures on the 13-year-old murder mystery. Mr Danov said: "No one can convince me that the writer Georgi Markov was not assassinated by the Bulgarian secret services."

Mr Markov's widow Annabel said yesterday that she was delighted at the minister's admission. She was

sure the murder of her husband was not the only assassination ordered by Todor Zhivkov, the communist dictator toppled in a coup in November 1989.

"I have been assured that Zhivkov will face trial. I cannot feel happy because of what happened to Georgi, but at least I feel that there is eventually justice," she said.

Georgi Markov, once lionised by Zhivkov, turned against the regime after defecting in 1969. Regular exonerating broadcasts for Radio Free Europe and the BBC enraged the communist leadership.

His killer carried an umbrella adapted to fire a tiny metal pellet filled with ricin, a highly potent poison. On September 7, 1978, Markov was trailed by his assassin as

he left Bush House, London headquarters of the BBC World Service. As he crossed Waterloo Bridge he felt a sharp pain. Turning round, Markov saw a man bending down to pick up an umbrella.

Within three days Markov was dead. A post-mortem examination revealed a pin-head-sized pellet containing ricin in his thigh. An inquest verdict of unlawful killing was returned but in the absence of profitable leads, Scotland Yard enquiries into the murder were closed.

Markov's family and friends were always convinced that the killing had been carried out by the Bulgarian secret service, a claim denied in Sofia until Zhivkov was toppled. Speculation about the murder persisted, with evidence emerging that the KGB had supplied the poison and trained the assassin.

Last month three Bulgarian generals, suspected of destroying files on the Markov case, were reported to have fled to the Soviet Union. The files were said to prove Soviet complicity in the killing. However, it now seems likely that copies are in the hands of a commission investigating the role of Zhivkov's secret service.

Annabel Markov said yesterday: "It is difficult to believe such things could be carried out by a government. Now they have to admit the truth and cleanse the national conscience."



Truth at last: Annabel Markov, widow of murdered dissident Georgi Markov, with her daughter Sasha

Donor eggs prolong childbearing

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN in their mid-40s who would otherwise be too old for childbearing are having babies as a result of eggs provided by younger donors.

Research published today offers improved prospects of motherhood to an increasing population of infertile middle-aged women. Advances in treatment will, however, also bring ethical dilemmas, the researchers say in *The Lancet*.

One consequence of artificially extending the reproductive age will be a widening age gap between parents and their children, according to New York doctors who conducted the study.

Female fertility declines rapidly after the age of 30, and compared with a woman of 25, a 35-year-old has only half the chance of having a healthy baby, mainly due to the poor quality of eggs. That hurdle can be overcome by ovum donation by younger women, the doctors say.

The study of 35 women over the age of 40 who received donated eggs during in-vitro fertilisation treatment shows that 20 became pregnant and 15 of those pregnancies resulted in healthy babies. Three women, aged 45, 46 and 47, all had twins.

"The merits can adequately sustain pregnancies even when reproductive potential is artificially prolonged into the late 40s," doctors at the Mount Sinai medical centre say.

Police fear rise in burglary may be result of recession

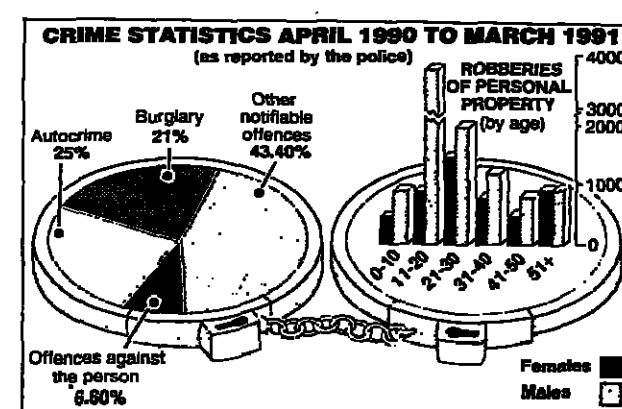
By QUENTIN COWDRY HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SOME senior Metropolitan police officers believe that a 15 per cent increase in recorded burglaries in London over the past year is a powerful endorsement of new research which suggests that property offences rise during economic downturns.

The total number of offences recorded in the capital during the year to April 1990 rose to a new peak of \$52,700, 11 per cent up on the same period the year before. Over the year there were 214,500 thefts of and from vehicles, a 9 per cent increase, and 177,200 burglaries (up 15 per cent).

Increases in violent offences, accounting for about 6 per cent of recorded crime, were less steep. Recorded street robberies rose by 5 per cent to 19,500 offences, sexual offences by 6 per cent to 5,400, and acts of violence against the person by 13 per cent to 36,000.

The force is especially disappointed by the rise in



muggings, recorded figures for which have fallen in each of the past three years. Intensive campaigns have been operating over large parts of London to reduce the problem and one reason for the rise may be that the public is reporting more street robberies, in response to police action against muggers.

Some of the force's most senior officers believe that new Home Office research pointing to a relation between property offences and economic fluctuations may explain the continuing large

increases in such offences as burglary and thefts from and of cars.

Presenting the figures yesterday Commander David Stevens, head of the force's community involvement branch, said that he believed that the research was valid and very significant. He said that there could be more scope for the police to look at economic forecasts in drawing up crime prevention plans.

Ministers, who instinctively dislike socio-economic explanations for crime, have been playing down the research, which was published last year with little fanfare. They tend to see family and school influences as being the critical factors which will decide whether a youngster falls into crime.

Commander Stevens said there needed to be a greater emphasis on police, government, local authorities and voluntary agencies working together to beat crime.

Youths stole 4,000 cars

EIGHTY teenagers were arrested yesterday by detectives investigating the theft of 4,000 cars in four months in the town centre of Bolton, Greater Manchester.

Police launched an undercover operation called Hi Tech after 250 cars a week

vanished from the town. "Cars parked for longish periods in and around the town centre were being targeted by this gang and stolen," Chief Superintendent Jeff Riding said. In a series of raids police caught the young thieves, the oldest being 19.

Car sales figures for May were the worst since 1975

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

SALES of new cars last month fell by 30.9 per cent, the worst May performance since 1975, according to figures disclosed yesterday.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said that the decline in sales accelerated to one of the greatest percentage monthly falls on record, underlining the scale of the recession afflicting the motor industry.

As disclosed by *The Times* on Tuesday, May sales were down to 120,162 from 173,896 in the same month of 1990. Registrations were also 39.7 per cent lower than May 1989, the record sales year.

In spite of five reductions in interest rates so far this year, sales of new cars have shown no signs of responding to the government's policy of gently stimulating consumer spending.

Car sales in the first five months of this year are down 33.81 per cent and they are unlikely to recover significantly for at least two months. June and July are traditionally the quietest in the sales year because buyers wait for the August change in registration plates.

Thousands of jobs have already been lost in the industry but Doug Henderson,

Labour's spokesman for the motor industry, said yesterday that a further 75,000 jobs were at risk. He said: "The industry — so crucial to the long-term success of the British economy — has been battered by government economic incompetence."

Car makers are faced with the problem of how to match

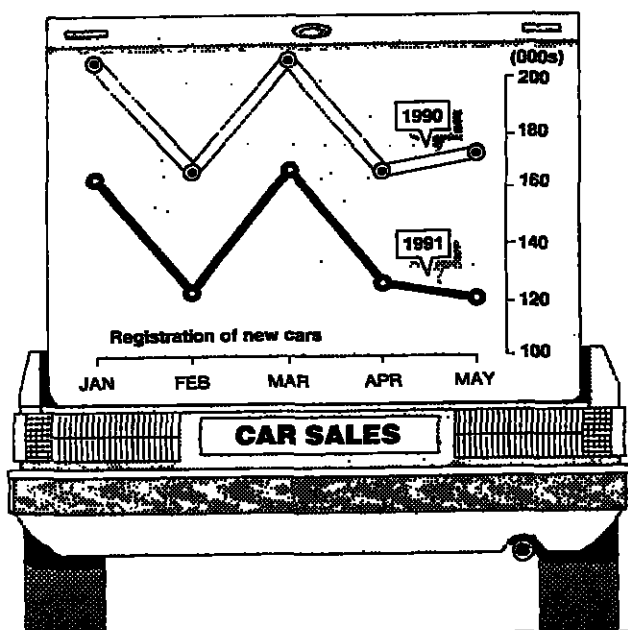
increasingly efficient production with rapidly falling sales from their showrooms. Ford has lost sales of almost 64,000 cars in the first five months of the year, 17,000 in May alone. Although Ford's Escort range topped the May sales charts, only 9,799 were sold against a daily production capacity at Halewood on

Merseyside of 1,100. Vauxhall has lost sales so far this year of almost 36,000 cars but its market share has grown from 16.46 per cent to 16.52 per cent. Rover has increased its share from 14.11 per cent to 15.13 per cent although sales are down from 130,253 to 106,466.

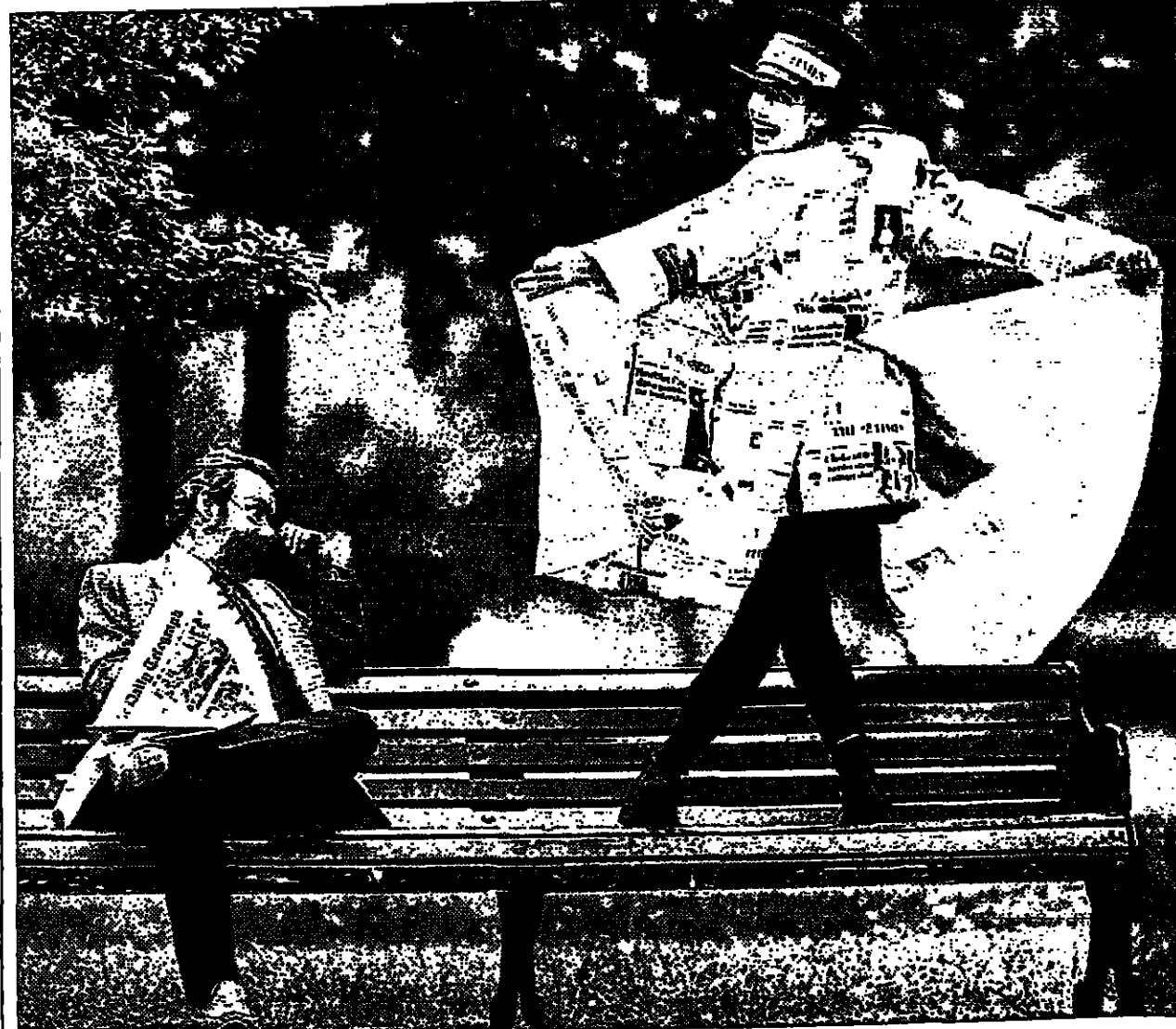
Luxury car makers suffered another bad month. Jaguar, which has cut 1,000 workers this year, saw sales in May fall from 762 last year to just 435.

Although there is no relief in sight this year, analysts believe that a looming general election could stimulate better sales in 1992. DRI, the motor market forecasting firm, is predicting an increase in new car sales of about 12 per cent, but warns that will probably not be enough to ease the worries of manufacturers.

Best selling cars, January to May: 1 Ford Fiesta (53,347); 2 Vauxhall Cavalier (51,582); 3 Ford Escort (45,055); 4 Ford Sierra (40,449); 5 Vauxhall Astra (34,243); 6 Rover Metro (28,888); 7 Rover 200 series (27,678); 8 Peugeot 205 (20,302); 9 Vauxhall Nova (18,684); 10 Ford Orion (17,186).



Leading article, page 19
Motoring, page 33



Making headlines: Sophie Dean, a fashion student at the Polytechnic of Central London, startles a sedate newspaper reader in Regent's Park in a long jacket and hat made from fabric printed with pages from *The Times*

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Season may be trimmed at National to save cash

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Theatre has told the Arts Council that unless it receives extra funding to cover the cost of maintaining its building it might have to follow the Royal Shakespeare Company's lead and close for part of a season.

Richard Eyre, artistic director, said yesterday that £1 million a year was needed to maintain the 15-year-old building on the South Bank, but no account of that was taken in the annual Arts Council grant. "We are in the ridiculous position of either spending money on operating as a theatre or spending money on the building in order to operate as a theatre," he said yesterday.

Genista McIntosh, executive producer at the National who joined last year from the RSC, said: "If this particular problem is not dealt with now we will have the same situation as the RSC when it had to close last winter."

The National had a successful season last year. There was an 82 per cent box office take-up on the three Olivier, Lyttelton and Cottesloe theatres, compared with 75 per cent in 1989. That led to a £250,000 operating surplus which could only go half way to offsetting the deficit on building costs.

Mr Eyre said that although the National was given a 10 per cent revenue grant increase for this year, from £8.9 million to £9.8 million, the company had been disappointed not to have been given an award from the enhancement fund.

The company has recently been assessed by an Arts Council panel and awaits its report.

Treatment cuts need for heart surgery

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW treatment for heart defects which eliminates the need for surgery, pacemakers or drugs has shown excellent results in clinical trials in the United States.

The method uses a catheter threaded through the blood vessels to the heart to destroy a tiny section of tissue responsible for causing the normal heart rhythm to speed up from its normal 70 beats a minute to 200 or more. About one person in every 800 is born with that defect.

The catheter is inserted into a blood vessel in the leg and then guided through the aorta and into the heart using x-rays until its tip is touching the small thread of extra muscle tissue, linking the upper chambers with the lower chambers, which is responsible for the condition. Then the tissue is destroyed in 20 seconds by heating the end of the catheter to 75°C, using an electrical current oscillating at radio frequencies.

"The method is one of the most exciting things that has happened in my lifetime," Anthony Nolan, consultant cardiac physician at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who has treated 30 patients with it, says. Next week he plans to treat a professional footballer, who without the treatment would have lost his chance of a career in the game. "In two days, he'll be back in training," Dr Nolan says.

Axel Wilkinson, a systems analyst from north London, was the first Barts patient to receive the treatment. He had been treated with drugs for 13 years before suffering an attack that lasted three hours. Mr Wilkinson was in and out of St Barts within 24 hours.

Healthier at the top in Whitehall

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHITEHALL mandarins are healthier than their colleagues in the lower ranks of the civil service, according to a medical study published today.

The findings of a long-term research project suggest that the lowest grades are more prone to heart disease, chronic bronchitis, high blood pressure, diabetes and other symptoms. The study of more than 10,000 civil servants in Whitehall is published in today's issue of *The Lancet*. It says that social inequalities in health have continued undiminished in the 20 years since the project began.

"It is likely that these findings will apply to white collar employees of other large organisations," the authors say.

The research challenges the widely-held view that senior executives are more vulnerable to stress-related conditions such as heart disease and high blood pressure than their juniors. "Among a group of office workers in stable jobs, each grade has worse health than

the grade above," the researchers say.

Michael Marmot, professor of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and University College London, who led the study, said yesterday: "Even among people who are not in poverty, as we usually understand the term, there are dramatic inequalities in health that relate to people's social position."

A common perception of work stress was that it was experienced by those who carried the most responsibility and who worked under pressure, he said. Evidence now suggested that it was those in jobs characterised by monotony, low control and little variety who were most at risk of stress-induced illnesses.

Another important factor was that those in lower grades tended to be more hostile than their superiors. "It is worth noting that hostility, which has been associated with heart disease, was more prevalent in those with lower job status," the report adds.

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Audit ideas 'could have halved poll tax bills'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

AVERAGE poll tax bills could have been almost halved this year if councils had made savings recommended by the Audit Commission over the past eight years, according to figures released yesterday.

In a review of its first eight years of operation, the commission said that it had identified savings of £4.2 billion, much of it annually recurring. That is four times higher than previous estimates of potential savings. It also represents almost half of the £8.68 billion which the poll tax will produce this year and almost two thirds of the £6.43 billion the charge will raise after allowing for government rebates to those on low incomes.

The environment department said last night the figure showed how greater efficiency

The report says that the commission has "chosen not to highlight" the £4.2 billion figure because it was based on the assumption that all councils could achieve levels of efficiency at least 75 per cent as high as the best. Based on savings identified in individual local authorities studied by the commission, the report says that councils could have saved £1.3 billion a year.

In reality only £662 million savings were being made annually although much of the shortfall was accounted for by the failure of local education authorities to cut surplus school places as pupil numbers fell. That process, which could have saved up to £700 million a year, had been virtually halted by the fear that schools identified for closure would be allowed to opt out of local council control, the commission said.

The report went on to reject Labour party allegations that the commission was obsessed with cutting budgets at the expense of ensuring effective local services. That criticism has prompted Labour to propose abolishing the Audit Commission, replacing it with a quality commission to enforce higher standards in local authority services.

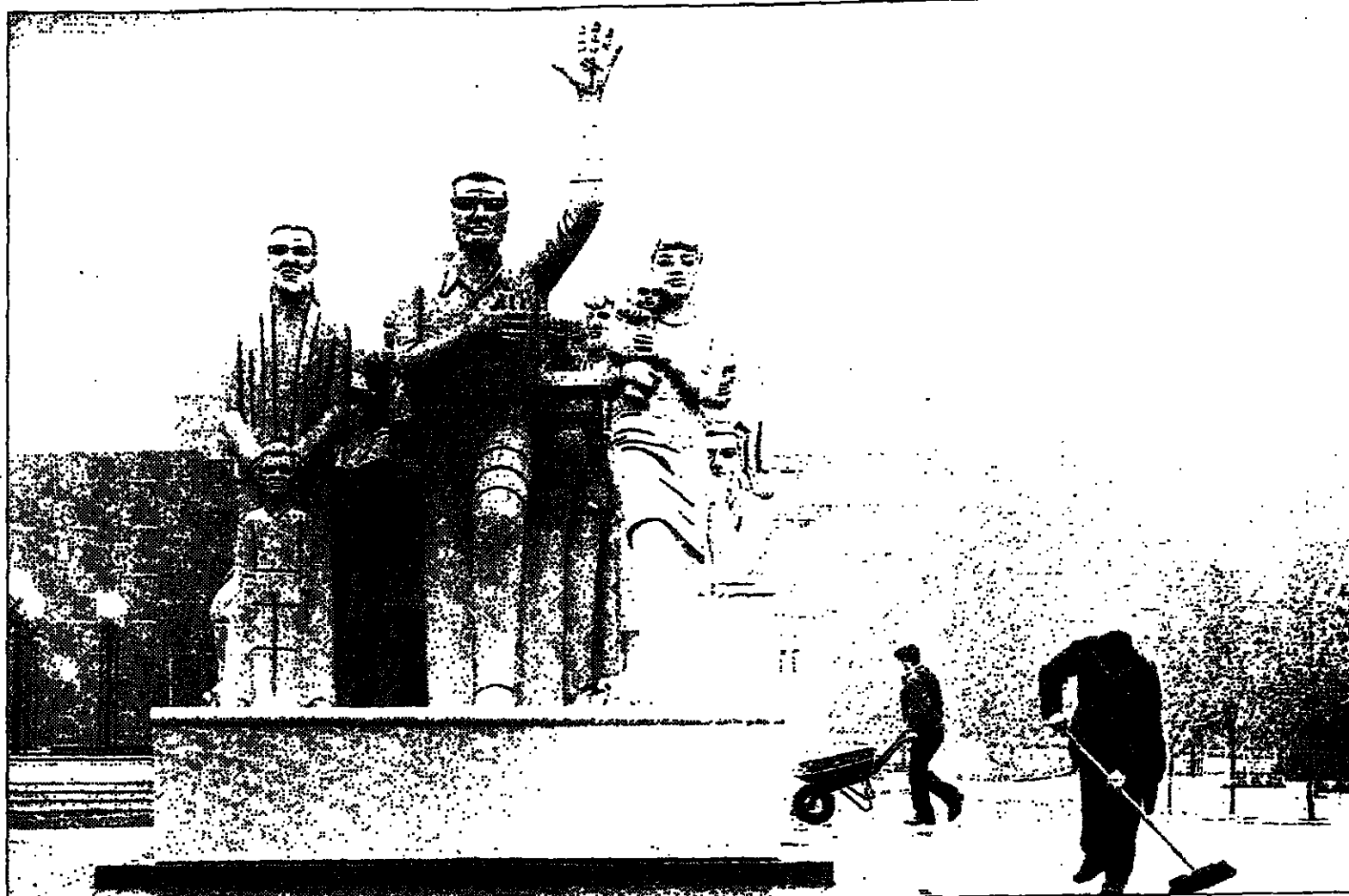
Howard Davies, the controller of the Audit Commission, said that the review of its work had been prompted both by Labour's proposals and the prime minister's call for a citizen's charter to guarantee minimum standards of public services. "Because we are called the Audit Commission a lot of people say we are just a bunch of accountants. We have linked effectiveness in the delivery of services with the efficiency in the use of resources. If you try to divorce the two you end up with a recipe for more spending. We have to disagree with Labour's proposition that we under-emphasise effectiveness."



Davies: we are not just a bunch of accountants

by councils could reduce poll tax bills significantly. The average community charge this year will be £173 after the Budget poll tax cut of £140 a head. The department rejected suggestions that savings would have been negated by reductions in central grant. Other Whitehall sources said that potential savings to the chargepayer could be higher still if the effect of annual pay rises for staff whose jobs should have been cut were taken into account.

The commission's report, *How Effective is the Audit Commission?* (Audit Commission, 1 Vincent Square, London SW1) is the result of the value-for-money watchdog employing its own methods on itself for the first time since its formation in 1983.



Looking forward: "It is a bit of a shock," Raymond Mason said yesterday of his fibreglass statue which had just been craned into place in Centenary Square, Birmingham. "To be honest, it's the first time I've seen it from a distance - it's going to take

Birmingham a bit of getting used to." Mr Mason was commissioned by Birmingham, through the city council's art consultants, the Public Art Commissions Agency, to make the 13ft high, 30ft long statue, which he calls *Forward*. Mr Mason believes it

reflects his deep-rooted affection for his native city, although he has lived in Paris for 30 years. The big fibreglass polychrome sculpture has cost the council £275,000 and will be unveiled by the Queen next Wednesday to mark the official opening of the

International Convention Centre. Birmingham's labouring tradition is the main theme of the work, which incorporates more than 30 life-sized figures. The sculpture has taken three years to complete and was shipped from Mason's workshop near Paris.

With this microchip I thee wed, if the EC has its way

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

GOLD wedding rings could soon be made from scrapped personal computers, video recorders and washing machines.

The European Commission is considering laws which may make Gerald Ratner's recent unflattering description of the jewellery sold by his shops appear almost prophetic. Faced with a rising tide of electronic goods, the commission is considering recycling targets for these items and for others including television sets, photocopyers and stereo systems.

They contain components including gold and silver, as well as less precious ones such as copper, steel and

aluminium. They also use plastics which can be recycled for car parts and building components, or burnt cleanly to generate electricity.

In Britain, five million electronic items worth more than £50 million are expected to be discarded each year by the mid-Nineties. They include 1.6 million microwave ovens, 1.4 million television sets and 800,000 personal computers.

Much of the valuable waste is smashed and dumped into landfill sites, an increasingly costly method, often because processing is too expensive, collection is disorganised and the devices are not made to be broken down conve-

niently. Technology experts are meeting in London today to discuss the impact of the EC plans. They have been invited by the Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology, set up by government and industry in 1988. It fears that unless an industry-wide strategy is devised to promote electronics recycling, companies could be out-sold by overseas rivals whose "greener" products would have a more powerful consumer appeal.

Grundig of Germany and Thomson of France, for example, are studying a "green" television set in which the casing and the electronics would re-emerge as new products at the end of the set's life.

Council officials accused of fraud

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN former officials of Conservative-controlled West Wiltshire district council, including the former chief executive, were charged yesterday with conspiring to defraud the authority.

The seven were charged after surrendering to police bail at Chippenham police station. They were arrested in December after police enquiries into the district council's financial affairs. Police were called in after a district auditor's report on privatisation of council departments and the activities of a property development company set up by the council.

Those charged yesterday were Gerald Garland, formerly chief executive; Roger Pugh, director of land management; Roger White, director of finance; Ray Per-

kins, software marketing director; Frank Archer, technical director; Richard Gilbert, computer manager; and David Wilkie, a solicitor.

All seven were charged with conspiracy to defraud the council by conversion of the computing services department into a private company known as West Wiltshire Information Services, which has since been wound up.

A second charge, alleging conspiracy to defraud by guaranteeing payment of bonuses, was made against Mr Garland, Mr Pugh and Mr White. Mr Garland, Mr Archer and Mr Perkins were further charged with conspiracy to defraud in relation to retirement benefits. All seven defendants were bailed to appear before magistrates at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, on July 18.

Children attacked by driver of red car

Detectives in three counties are investigating a series of attacks on and approaches to children in which a man in a red car was involved.

A girl aged three was indecently assaulted on Wednesday at Haslingstoke, Hampshire, by a man believed to have been driving a red car. On Tuesday evening at Grove, Oxfordshire, a girl aged ten was chased by a man in a similar vehicle.

Two schoolgirls in the Wantage area, Oxfordshire, and another at Letcombe Regis near by were approached by the driver of a red car over the past week. Police at Swindon, Wiltshire, are also searching for a man in a red vehicle after similar incidents.

Council arrest

Muhammed Javed, senior housing officer for Hackney council and a Labour councillor, has been suspended after a police investigation of alleged corruption in the council's housing department.

Jaguar stabbing

A woman in her thirties was discovered stabbed to death at the wheel of a Jaguar car yesterday outside Gurnell Grove leisure centre in Ruislip Road, Greenford, west London.

Keegan case

Three men were yesterday remanded in custody at Reigate, Surrey, accused of robbing the former England soccer star Kevin Keegan. The men were Martin Bell, aged 21, Edmund Poole, aged 20, and Darrell Briggs, aged 18, all of Newhaven, East Sussex.

Lazy pigeon

A racing pigeon flying from France to England rested on a Russian ship for so long that it arrived home a fortnight after the race. A note from the crew, attached to the bird's leg, explained to the owner Colin Edmunds of Wornelov, near Hereford, how they had looked after it.

Skater fined

The former British Olympic ice-skater David Cousins was fined £300 yesterday at Horseferry Road Court, London, for driving while over the alcohol limit. Cousins, aged 33, who is based in France with an ice show, was banned from driving for a year.

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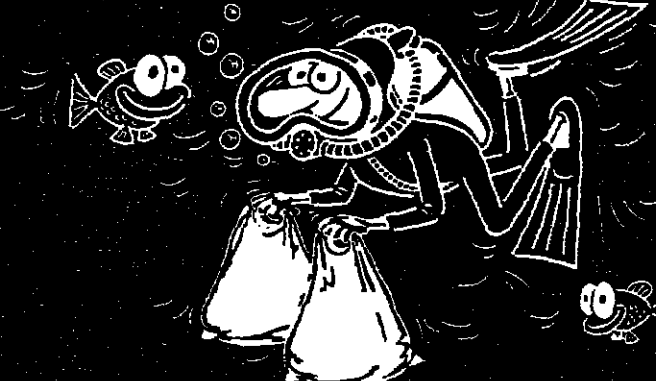
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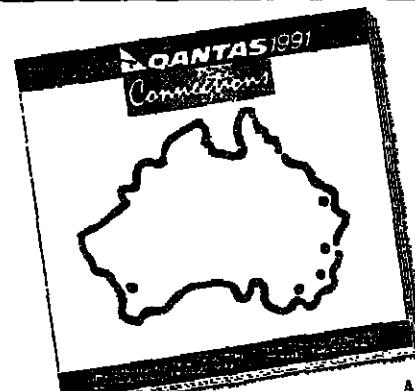
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Harare pushes for Pretoria sanctions while seeking trade

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE AND ELIZABETH OBADINA IN LAGOS

ZIMBABWE has asked the South African government to revise the agreement regulating trade between them despite publicly pushing to maintain sanctions.

The request from the Zimbabwe trade and commerce ministry to the offices of the South African trade mission in Harare, was made on the same day that the Zimbabwean delegation to the Organisation of African Unity foreign ministers' pre-summit meeting last week in Nigeria were pushing for a hardline resolution against South Africa. In the end the OAU summit, which ended yesterday, adopted a compromise resolution maintaining present sanctions against South Africa with the proviso that should they adopt measures leading to the abolition of apartheid, the OAU would review the sanctions.

In his closing speech yesterday, President Babangida of Nigeria, the new OAU chairman, appealed to leaders to show maturity and accept

democratic changes in their countries. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, said in a BBC interview that he welcomed the complete change of atmosphere within the OAU. He added that South Africa's trade with the rest of Africa had increased by 25 per cent this year.

Zimbabwe officials said yesterday that their trade agreement with South Africa, which grants each country "most-favoured-nation" status and which has been in force since 1964, had been so eroded by inflation as to be no longer of benefit to either partner. At last week's pre-summit meeting, Zimbabwe not only stated that the time was not right for sanctions to be lifted, but also excoriated African countries which wanted them re-examined.

Zimbabwe's vociferous condemnation of apartheid and its endorsement of punitive measures against Pretoria sits uneasily with the fact that without trade with South Af-

rica it could not survive. It therefore cannot implement the actions it urges the rest of the world to follow. However the tone of the pre-summit resolution appeared out of step with recent statements by President Mugabe.

Since Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress, was released from prison, Zimbabwe's policy has clearly changed. Mr Mugabe now praises President de Klerk of South Africa for his steps towards eliminating apartheid and urges him to continue.

The softer policy is visible not only in the queues for visas almost encircling the South African trade mission, but also in Mr Mugabe's meeting in April with a senior official of the South African Reserve Bank, the first he has ever held with a South African government representative. Last week the government found it necessary to deny rumours that the lifting of visa requirements between the two countries was imminent.



Meal time: in another part of famine-hit Africa, a Somali mother and her child await food from a Save the Children Fund programme in Mogadishu

Brotherly care from Banda sustains refugees

One of Africa's poorest countries is caring for thousands of war victims, Michael Hornsby writes from Ndamera in southern Malawi

SITTING in the shade of a tree, the newest batch of refugees from the civil war in Mozambique await transfer to a settlement camp.

They have trickled, in twos and threes, across the nearby border over the past week, usually at night. Walking barefoot through the bush, in some cases for days, most arrive desperately hungry and with only the few rags they are wearing.

They come with tales of mistreatment at the hands of Mozambique government troops and Renamo rebels alike. In a long shed they are given a slip of paper noting their names and numbers of children with them; this will entitle them to a food ration. They are examined for disease and children under five are vaccinated against polio, measles, tuberculosis, and diphtheria.

Malawi, one of the poorest countries in Africa, is now host to 950,000 Mozambicans, more than 10 per cent of its own population of 8.5 million. The total cost of looking after them is put at about \$110 million (£65 million) a year, of which some \$25 million is borne directly by Malawi.

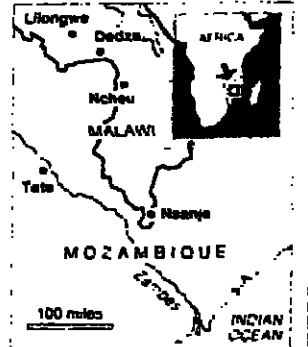
Even allowing for ties of blood, tribe, and language across a frontier that has always been porous, the lack of tension in a country where pressure on land is acute is astonishing. The generous treatment of the refugees, often better housed and cared for than local Malawians, owes much to the life president, Hastings Banda, now thought to be in his 90s, who has ruled Malawi since independence from Britain in 1964 with the rectitude of a Victorian paterfamilias. Mozambicans, Dr Banda has decreed, are to be treated as "our brothers and sisters".

The refugees are concentrated most heavily in Nsanje district at the southern-most tip of Malawi, between the Tete and Zambezi provinces of Mozambique. There are now 283,000 in the district, outnumbering the local Malawian population of 211,000, and 50 more arrive every day. Another 337,000 are living in camps and villages in

the districts of Dedza and Ntcheu, southeast of the Malawian capital, Lilongwe, along the border with Mozambique's Tete province. The Malawi government's relief agency, helped by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN World Food Programme, distributes some 14,000 tons of basic foodstuffs to refugee feeding centres every month. The aim is to ensure that every man, woman, and child has at least 400g (about 1lb) of maize flour, 60g of dried beans or peas, 20g of cooking oil, and 20g of groundnuts a day.

UN officials say stocks of food are adequate, but they are worried that donor countries have not pledged new supplies for 1992. Nearly all the maize flour has to be imported.

After being brought to South African ports, supplies are normally taken by



road and rail to Harare, the Zimbabwean capital, and then by lorry through Tete province to southern Malawi. Since last January, however, the Tete road has been closed by rebel activity, forcing lorries to follow a much more costly, round-about route through Zambia.

About 15 miles north of Nsanje town lies Nyamitumbu, Malawi's biggest camp, housing 92,000 refugees and covering 14 square miles. "Two-and-a-half years ago there was nothing here except some grazing cattle," Allan Khaki, the camp administrator, says.

The burden on Malawi's social services is acute. Nsanje District Hospital was opened in 1981 to cater for 150 inpatients, but now has 400, of whom 70 per cent are Mozambican refugees and up to half in the hospital suffer from AIDS or AIDS-related diseases.

Mandela urges end to fasting

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress, appealed yesterday to jailed black hunger strikers, some of whom have starved for more than a month, to end their fasts.

In a statement issued in his name by the ANC in Johannesburg, Mr Mandela, who has been attending the Organisation of African Unity summit in Nigeria and flew on to Paris yesterday, said the strikers had made their point and should take food "so that none of them dies or suffers permanent damage to their health". The statement said that more than a hundred prisoners were on hunger strike demanding unconditional release under an agreement reached between the government and the ANC to free all political captives by April 30.

Kobie Coetsee, the justice minister, insists that only prisoners convicted of murder, robbery, rape and crimes resulting in serious bodily harm remain behind bars. But the Human Rights Commission, an independent organisation, said 22 political prisoners and nine awaiting trial were not eating. Fourteen had not taken food for 36 days, giving rise to grave concern about their health. More than 200 prisoners, it said, had embarked on hunger strikes at the beginning of last month, but some had since been freed and others had suspended their fasts.

Paris: Mr Mandela, who will meet President Mitterrand during his four-day private visit here, has asked France to continue sanctions against South Africa because sanctions were forcing Pretoria to reverse the doctrine of apartheid. (Reuters)

Ethiopian troops surrender

Addis Ababa — Ethiopia's new leadership extended its control to remaining towns of the remote, famine-hit east and named a caretaker administration to run the country until round-table peace talks due by the end of the month.

Tamirat Layne, who was previously vice-president of the interim administration of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, is now acting prime minister. State radio said that remnants of the previous government's army surrendered at Jijiga, one of the last towns to fall to the front in the eastern region of Hararge. The international airport in Addis Ababa is to reopen today after it had been closed for nearly two weeks. (Reuters)

Multiparty plan

Lesaka — Zambia has released a draft multiparty constitution which would restrict the presidency to two five-year terms, introduce a two-tier parliament, and scrap the post of prime minister. The draft is subject to debate and approval by parliament which resumes sitting on June 18. (AFP)

Rape MP jailed

Belawayo — A Zimbabwean member of parliament was jailed for four years for raping a teenage woman, the national news agency said. Ben Mataga, a senior official of the ruling Zanu (PF) party, was found guilty by a regional magistrate of raping his domestic worker, aged 18, in June last year. (Reuters)

Dissident sick

Nairobi — Kenneth Matiba, a campaigner for multiparty politics in Kenya jailed without trial 11 months ago, suffered a stroke and was transferred to hospital, his family said. (Reuters)

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US offering support for Gorbachev reform plans

From GEORGE BROCK IN COPENHAGEN

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's recent agreements with his rebellious Soviet republics could establish a new political legitimacy and mark a turnaround in his fortunes, James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said here yesterday.

Perestroika, he said, could be the most important revolution of the century. He added that Washington was developing supportive measures for Mr Gorbachev which would be discussed with America's allies.

Mr Baker's optimism was echoed by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. "Our assessment is that Gorbachev has turned a corner, but that the problems remain formidable," Mr Hurd said.

Mr Baker, who was addressing the meeting of Nato foreign ministers, said the recent strike by Soviet miners had been Mr Gorbachev's greatest challenge. The strike, he said, had combined a political and economic challenge with a frontal assault on the legitimacy of Moscow's central power. But an agreement, known as the "one plus nine", between the capital and nine restive republics had eventually emerged from the strike.

If this agreement were followed through, it would have the potential to establish a new political legitimacy in the Soviet Union. Soviet reform would not, however, be kick-started by a "big bang" of Western aid. The West's most important task was to engage "this new and pluralistic Soviet society to support reform wherever it is found."

A senior member of the British delegation, explaining the change in the government's attitude to Soviet reform, said that when Mr Gorbachev had encountered trouble, he was thought to have "sold out to the three ugly sisters": the Soviet army, the KGB and the Communist party. But a new situation was now apparent, although "what is still lacking, of course, is any economic plan which is coherent."

As expected, Nato's leaders yesterday offered "constructive partnership" to both the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. A statement stopped short, however, of suggesting that former Warsaw Pact countries could join the Atlantic alliance.

Confusion over poll

Bucharest — The announcement by Eugen Dimarescu, the Romanian finance minister, that early elections were "necessary", has provoked confusion and anger in political circles here (Tim Judah writes). It was unclear if the statement was a declaration of government intent or merely to test political opinion. Deputies saw Mr Dimarescu's statement as an insult because it had been made during a press conference.

Walesa veto

Warsaw — President Walesa rejected a new electoral law in a move which could delay Poland's first fully democratic elections, due in October. He said the law was defective and too complex. (Reuters)

Refugees riot

Rome — Hundreds of rioting Albanians protesting over conditions seized a refugee camp near the Italian port of Brindisi, ignoring shots fired into the air by Italian police, who later sealed off roads leading to the area.



Shoulder to shoulder: John Howard, holding a stick, the major who liberated the Pegasus Bridge in the first battle of D-Day, celebrating the 47th anniversary of the landings at Benouville with the Goudre sisters — whose family opened their cafe to their liberators — and one of his men

East Europeans voice aid fears

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

LEADERS in Eastern Europe, drawn into competition with Moscow for massive aid from the West, are determined to press for trade liberalisation and other forms of support for their market reforms at a high-level East-West meeting that opened yesterday.

The site of the conference is the spa town of Bardejov in northeastern Slovakia, a resort that is famed for its gastric cures. But there there are no easy remedies for the problems of the post-communist states, all of which are in a limbo between centrally planned and full-blown market economies. The meeting, which is being attended by Dan Quayle, the American vice-president, is being chaired by President Havel.

President Gorbachev of Hungary, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, the Polish prime minister, and sundry other ministers, bankers and businessmen are trying to work out a comprehensive economic strategy for Europe. The prospect of President Gorbachev attending the G7 session has unsettled Moscow's former allies.

The capital flow to Eastern Europe is already rather poor. According to the maiden study of the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, investors have committed only £1.5 billion to the region. A shift in Western emphasis to reforming the Soviet economy would probably weaken interest in the small post-communist states whose market reforms are much more advanced than those of Moscow.

However, one change that would significantly benefit Hungary, Poland and the Balkan states is a shift in the common agricultural policy to give greater access to East European farm produce, as well as more liberal trade policies for such products as textiles.

KGB's slightly open house

From MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE forbidding yellow-and-grey headquarters of the KGB threw open its doors, or rather one door, to the press yesterday to present the Soviet security service's shining, new image as combatant-in-chief against terrorism. General Valeri Voronikov, a fluent, exceptionally well turned-out individual in his mid-40s, introduced himself as head of the recently established counter-terrorism directorate and produced a battery of statistics to show that the Soviet Union was afflicted by terrorism as never before.

He disclosed that there had been more than 200 explosions since the beginning of 1990, in which 50 people had been killed and 130 injured. One of these was last week's attack on a train between Novorossiysk in southern Russia and the Azerbaijani capital, Baku. Raids on army and interior ministry depots were becoming more frequent and since the beginning of the year 44,000 illegally held firearms had been confiscated.

General Voronikov's official designation is head of the department to protect the constitutional structure; this, he conceded, consisted almost entirely of former members of the defunct fifth directorate, which had dealt with dissidents. According to his statistics, 261 threats against the life of the president and other members of the leadership had been registered last year, double the number in 1987, and 15 members of the national and republic parliaments had been killed. General Voronikov said, however, that a shooting incident in Red Square, during last year's November 7 parade, was the only attempt on the president's life in the past year and that his security was now judged to be sound.

For reporters attending this first open KGB briefing, staircases and corridors were discreetly guarded to prevent even the most innocent straying. The route to the conference hall lay through a fearsome exhibition of confiscated weapons, ranging from mini-rocket launchers, through rifles to swords and kitchen knives. "Try this for size," a helpful steward said, fitting a lethal knuckleduster, with sharp spikes, to my hand. Inside the hall, the desks and chairs were of a quality unknown in most other Soviet institutions. The walls, panelled in dark, polished wood, and the light, parquet floor were without blemish. Not one light bulb in the dozen or so chandeliers was missing. The walls were adorned with three black-and-white portraits: Lenin; the founder of the KGB, Dzerzhinsky, and... Gorbachev.

Despite the mostly new-style presentation and General Voronikov's barrage of statistics, the KGB's first essay in glasnost raised a few unanswered questions. "What is the total strength of the KGB?" was one such enquiry. "This," said the general, "is a state secret, and as such can be disclosed only with the consent of parliament."

Despite improved policing, the average car driver still roars away from traffic lights, regardless of people who are still crossing the road. However, a courageous breed of pedestrians is beginning to strike back, with a heavy thump on offenders' vehicles from walking sticks and umbrellas.

France reduces road deaths

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

TO THE cautious delight of the French authorities, and doubtless of Britons preparing for the summer holiday ordeal of driving in France, deaths on the country's notoriously dangerous roads have been sharply reduced in the first five months of this year.

Compared against the same period in 1990, there was a gratifying 18.5 per cent decline, reducing the death toll to its lowest level for three decades: in human terms, that amounts to the saving of 922 lives. Just as encouraging is that, although France has one of the worst road records in Europe, the country's accidents appear to be becoming less lethal.

While it is certainly too soon to conclude that the French have been cured of their apalling selfish habits behind the steering wheel, the reduction last December of the speed limit in towns from 60 kph (37.7mph) to 50 kph, and the compulsory use of rear seat belts at all times seems to have had a remarkably swift effect. According to Georges Sarre, the secretary of state for road transport, sustaining this "spectacular" improvement will bring last year's horrifying figure of nearly 10,000 deaths down to around 8,000.

But with more than 500 people still being injured or killed on French roads every day, he is understandably anxious to emphasise that any relaxation on the part of drivers and the police could easily compromise this encouraging trend. In Paris and other big cities, where you take your life in your hands stepping off the pavement, more pedestrians than motorists now die in road accidents.

Despite improved policing, the average car driver still roars away from traffic lights, regardless of people who are still crossing the road. However, a courageous breed of pedestrians is beginning to strike back, with a heavy thump on offenders' vehicles from walking sticks and umbrellas.

Little optimism as talks on Yugoslavia get under way

From DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THE presidents of Yugoslavia's six republics met for a last-ditch round of talks in a government villa near Sarajevo yesterday in search of a settlement that would remove the threat of civil war. However, the chances of an accord looked very slim when a compromise proposal, tabled by Bosnia and Macedonia, was turned down by Serbia even before the talks started.

Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, where the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist in 1914 triggering the first world war, is hosting the meeting. *Borba*, the Belgrade daily, described the

presidents as "dilettantes" who were playing a dangerous and irrational game with the nation's future.

It was the sixth summit meeting in three months at which the leaders have argued about whether Yugoslavia should be a centrally-ruled federation or a loose alliance, and whether some of its republics should break away as independent states. Predictions are gloomier than ever. The Yugoslav state presidency is deadlocked and paralysed after Serbia blocked the annual rotation last month to prevent Stipe Mesic, a Croat, from taking over the presidency. The federal parliament

is in a state of total disarray. The federal government of Ante Markovic is the only federal institution apart from the army which functions, or appears to be functioning. There have been at least 20 deaths in clashes between Serbs and Croats this year.

The Serbs have now refused even to consider the joint Bosnian-Macedonian plan which would turn Yugoslavia into a loose federation of sovereign republics. But Slovenia and Croatia regard the plan as meeting their basic aspirations. Both countries have already announced that they would declare independence by the end of the month.

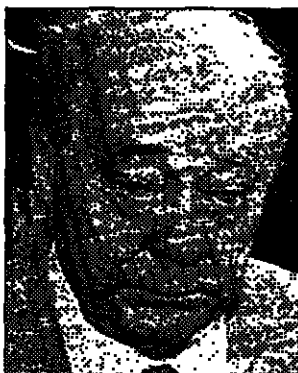
Former union chief jailed

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

EAST Germany's former trade union chief was sentenced yesterday to 18 months' imprisonment by a west Berlin court, the first of the communist elite to be found guilty on corruption charges.

Harry Tisch, a veteran politburo member, was convicted of financing family holidays for himself and Günter Mittag, the economics chief, from union funds. Tisch has already spent a year on remand and is unlikely to have to serve much of his sentence.

The sentence disappointed many east Germans who had hoped that the misdeeds of former leaders would be avenged after unification. The mild verdict confirmed that this was not a political trial.



Tisch after sentence was passed in Berlin yesterday

German law — "embezzlement of socialist property". It has also provided a precedent for the use of the former state's laws in a west German court.

Three other politburo members are currently awaiting trial. The former prime minister, Willi Stoph, and the defence minister, Heinz Kessler, are to be tried for their part in the shoot-to-kill policy at the inner-German border, and the former minister of state security, Erich Mielke, for ordering election frauds and tapping the telephones of millions of East Germans considered politically unsafe by the state.

It is unlikely, however, that their convictions would be secured on the basis of East German law.

WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Papal fitness under scrutiny

The world's best Vatican watchers are of course Italian journalists who grew up with the cardinals and the bishops in the Rome curia. But the most scrupulous pope-watchers are Poles. Both the Poles and the Italians are a little worried by the physical changes in Karol Wojtyla. He seems, in his current pilgrimage to Poland, to have slowed down, to tire more easily. In unscripted meetings, once his forte, he appears uneasy and sometimes repeats himself.

The simple fact is that the pope is ageing. He is after all 71 years old. For a man with ten year old gunshot wounds he is remarkably fit. His robust health was almost certainly a factor in his election in the 1978 conclave. His predecessor, Pope John Paul I — Cardinal Albino Luciani — had died of a massive heart attack three weeks before his 68th birthday and Pope Paul the Sixth who died earlier in that year was in effect an invalid.

The Polish Pope, by contrast, was a skier, a canoeist, an outdoorsman in addition to his intellectual credentials. He gave up the skis but he still goes on long mountain treks and plans a hiking holiday in the Tatras range this summer. One of his first moves as pope was to build a swimming pool at the Castelgandolfo summer residence and he puts in a few lengths on hot days.

But 51 pilgrimages have taken their toll. His meals are regular — straight-forward Polish fare, prepared by nuns, and wine in moderation — but otherwise his days on the road are rushed, haphazard affairs.

On the Warsaw leg of his pilgrimage he has been allotted 15 minutes to wash in the middle of the day. The rest of the time he is supposed to be at the altar or in bullet-proof limousines.

Some years ago an American entrepreneur came up with the idea of a Pope John Paul diet and exercise book, laced with biblical quotes and profits to charity, but the idea was dismissed by the Vatican. Fortunately so: within six months, Mehmet

Ali Agca was shooting at the Pope in St Peter's Square. According to a book just published in Poland, *Kill the Pope*, there was a serious attempt to assassinate the Pope during his second pilgrimage to Poland in 1983. The book is partly fiction — that is, based on fact — but it has unearthed and reprinted in full genuine secret police files. These show that some Polish plotter (supposedly working for a hardline communist) were planning to put a bomb in one of the scores of gifts

that are presented to the Pope during his travels. The conspiracy was scotched. There were rumours at the time but since the police department monitoring the church was deeply compromised — a year later they killed Father Jerzy Popiełuszko — nobody took their claims very seriously.

The police archives show that the agents were far more worried about stamping on Solidarity underground cells and on how to bug a meeting between the Pope and Lech Walesa, than on rounding up potential murderers.

In Bialystok, the Pope's sermon was devoted to the commandment *Thou shalt not steal*. He also beatified Sister Bolesława Lament who used to preach to the criminal underworld. This displayed a sure sense of eastern fringe of Poland, has become a rendezvous point for the Soviet mafia which is moving its operations into eastern Europe. The gangs smuggle stolen cars into the Soviet Union.

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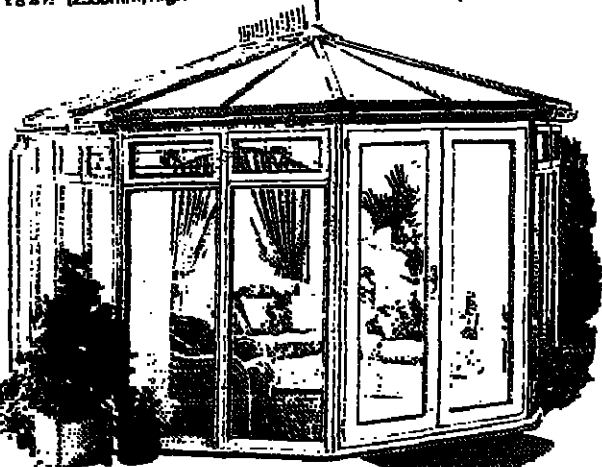
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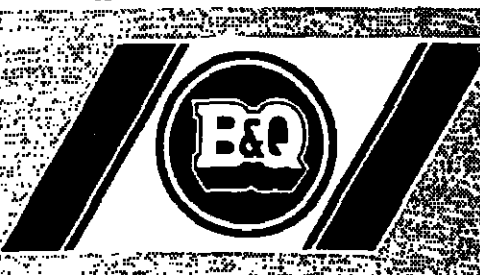
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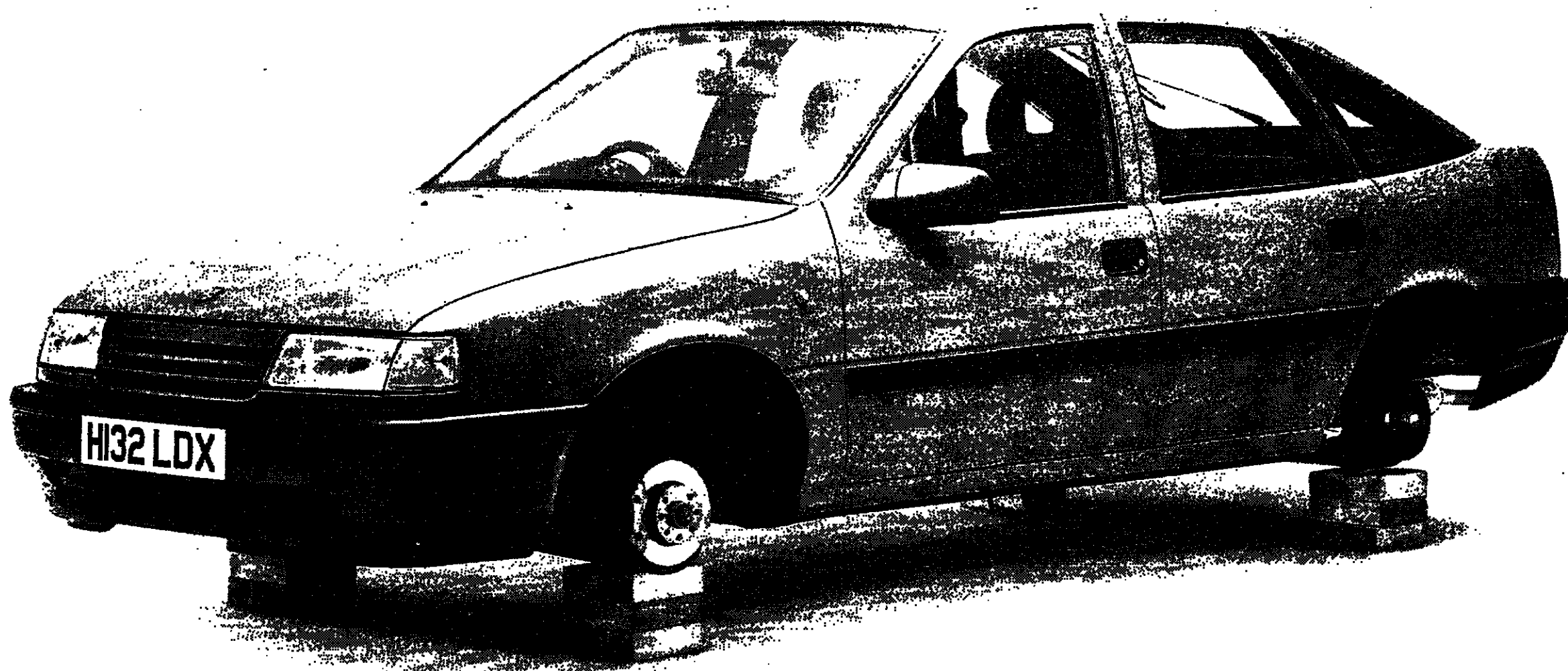
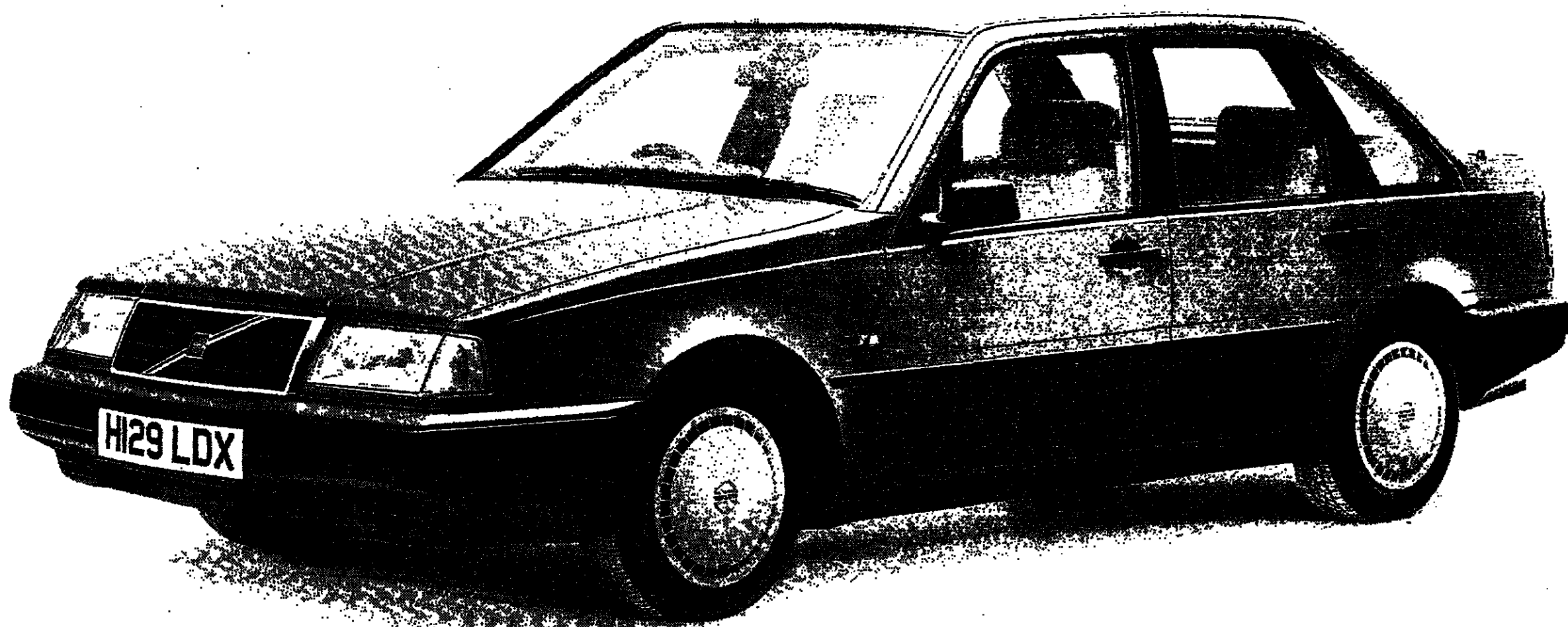
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China threat to overrule Hong Kong rights bill

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

CHINA yesterday stepped up its political attacks on Hong Kong with a threat to repeal parts of the British Colony's new bill of rights when it takes control in 1997.

The Chinese government is deeply suspicious of the bill, designed to protect the civil and political freedoms Hong Kong has enjoyed under recent British rule, and fears it may be used to undermine its control after the handover of sovereignty.

The Chinese foreign ministry accused Britain of ignoring Peking's objections and said it believed the bill would adversely affect the implementation of the Basic Law, its own post-1997 mini-constitution for Hong Kong. But the Hong Kong govern-

ment last night defended the bill, adopted by the local legislature on Wednesday, calling it fully consistent with the Basic Law. The war of words comes amid continued sparring over China's opposition to Hong Kong's ambitious multi-billion pound airport project and warnings that progress in other Sino-British negotiations over Hong Kong will be blocked until the airport row is settled.

China is demanding the right of involvement in all decisions which "straddle" 1997. The bill of rights was promised by Britain in 1989 after China's bloody military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square in an attempt to calm local fears of political repression after the handover. It was drafted to reflect internationally accepted human rights guidelines set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of the United Nations.

Yet although the Basic Law also promises that Hong Kong will be able to preserve not only the ICCPR but other international human rights laws as well, China objected. It took particular exception to early plans to give the bill of rights precedence over other local laws. Eighteen months on, its objections have remained unchanged, although the Hong Kong Government has long since dropped its insistence on giving the bill precedence.

Many Hong Kong liberals now consider the bill is not tough enough. But in its strongest warning since the bill was first proposed, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said: "The British side has insisted on making a bill of rights in Hong Kong which will adversely affect the implementation of the Basic Law. The Chinese side regrets this and reserves the right to examine at an appropriate time after 1997 all laws in force in Hong Kong including this bill of rights."

The Hong Kong government later said that all the provisions of the bill had been specifically designed to ensure its substance was consistent with the ICCPR and that it did not conflict with the bill of rights. Selina Chow, the legislative councillor who has guided through the bill, said the Chinese government's objections did not come as a surprise, but hoped that once the bill was implemented it would boost confidence in Hong Kong and, in time, convince the Chinese.

Churchman arrested in Korea

Seoul — Police have arrested Moon Ik Hwan, one of South Korea's best-known dissidents, and imprisoned him for violating parole conditions. About 4,000 police raided two Seoul universities and a cosmetics plant, searching for leaders of nationwide anti-government protests.

Riot police cordoned off a hospital where militant students were seeking to block a post-mortem examination on a student killed in a street demonstration. The Rev Moon, a Presbyterian minister, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in 1989 after an illegal trip to North Korea. (AP)

Victims named

Bangkok — Forensic experts have identified 117 of the 223 victims of last week's Thai air crash in Thailand, a Luda Air official said. (AP)

Ceasefire over

Bangkok — Khmer Rouge rebels ended the five-week ceasefire in Cambodia after peace talks failed in Jakarta, while Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of a non-communist faction, said he would return to his country in November for two months.

Streets ahead

Singapore — A taxi firm in Singapore is putting 50 more London cabs on the roads after finding they are twice as popular as the more usual Japanese cars. (Reuters)



Ash masks: Japanese schoolgirls in Shinabara covering their faces as the volcanic Mount Unzen pollutes the air. The eruption has killed at least 38 people

Contras return to hills and hunt down old foe

FROM ALAN TOMLINSON IN JINOTEGA, NICARAGUA

A GROUP of poor peasants watched as the column of heavily armed guerrillas picked its way down the wooded hillside and cautiously crossed an open field. It was a sight they had hoped never to see again.

The Nicaraguan Contra war ended a year ago in the aftermath of an unexpected election defeat for the left-wing Sandinista regime. A new government took office, promising peace, disarmament and reconciliation. There was no reason for the American-backed rebels to go on fighting.

Yet here they were once again, a rag-tag bunch of young men in straw hats and baseball caps, olive green shirts tucked into blue jeans, AK47 assault rifles slung over their shoulders, grenades and ammunition belts fastened across their chests. Their leader, a small man with a heavy, black beard, stepped forward to address the knot of waiting journalists. "We are the Column of Democratic Guerrillas," Rojito — his nom de guerre — said. "We are here to ask President Violeta Chamorro to fulfil her election promise

and disarm the Sandinistas ... We demand total disarmament. We won't lay down our weapons as long as the Sandinistas keep theirs."

After ten years of Washington-financed counter-revolution, the Contras were finally persuaded to disarm last June by President Chamorro, who trounced the Sandinistas at the polls. More than 22,000 rebels emerged from the hills to accept amnesty.

For many, disarmament has brought disappointment. Everyone who handed over a weapon received new clothes, farm tools, \$50 (£29) in cash and a few months' rations of rice and beans, courtesy of a grateful Uncle Sam. But government promises of land for all who had fought fell far short of expectations and the majority of the rebel army gradually returned to their homes in the northern highlands and simply seized land. Vast areas where the war once raged are now being farmed by resettled former rebels.

President Chamorro reduced the Sandinista People's Army to about 20,000

men, a quarter of its former size, but left General Humberto Ortega, the brother of the Sandinista leader and former president, Daniel Ortega, in command. The "Re-Contras", as the re-armed rebels have been dubbed, want the general dismissed.

The resurgent guerrillas complain that officers of the Sandinista secret police, abolished by Señora Chamorro because of accusations of human rights abuses, have been absorbed into the army and the regular police force, from where they are now settling old scores with former Contras.

Vladimir Pérez, regional co-ordinator of an international commission monitoring the peace process under the flag of the Organisation of American States, says at least eight former Contras come to his office in Jinotega every day complaining of illegal arrests, death threats and shootings. The OAS says 47 former guerrillas have been murdered in the past year.

The Sandinistas, however, deny any institutional involvement in the revenge attacks.

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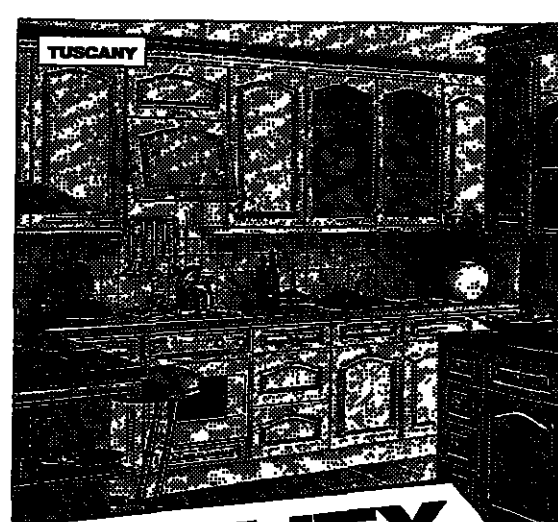
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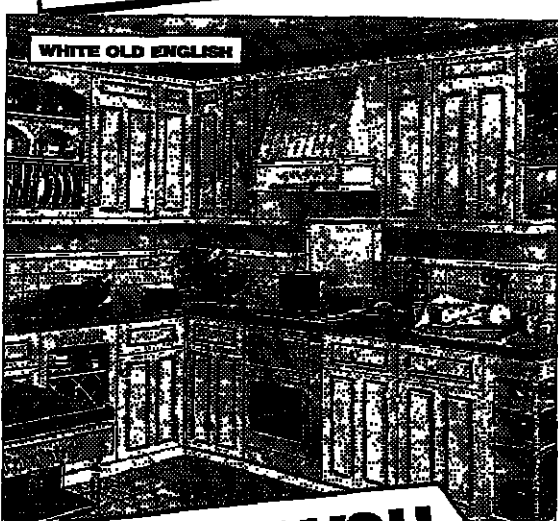
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£500 up to £9,999	10.20	7.65
£2,500 up to £4,999	9.50	7.43
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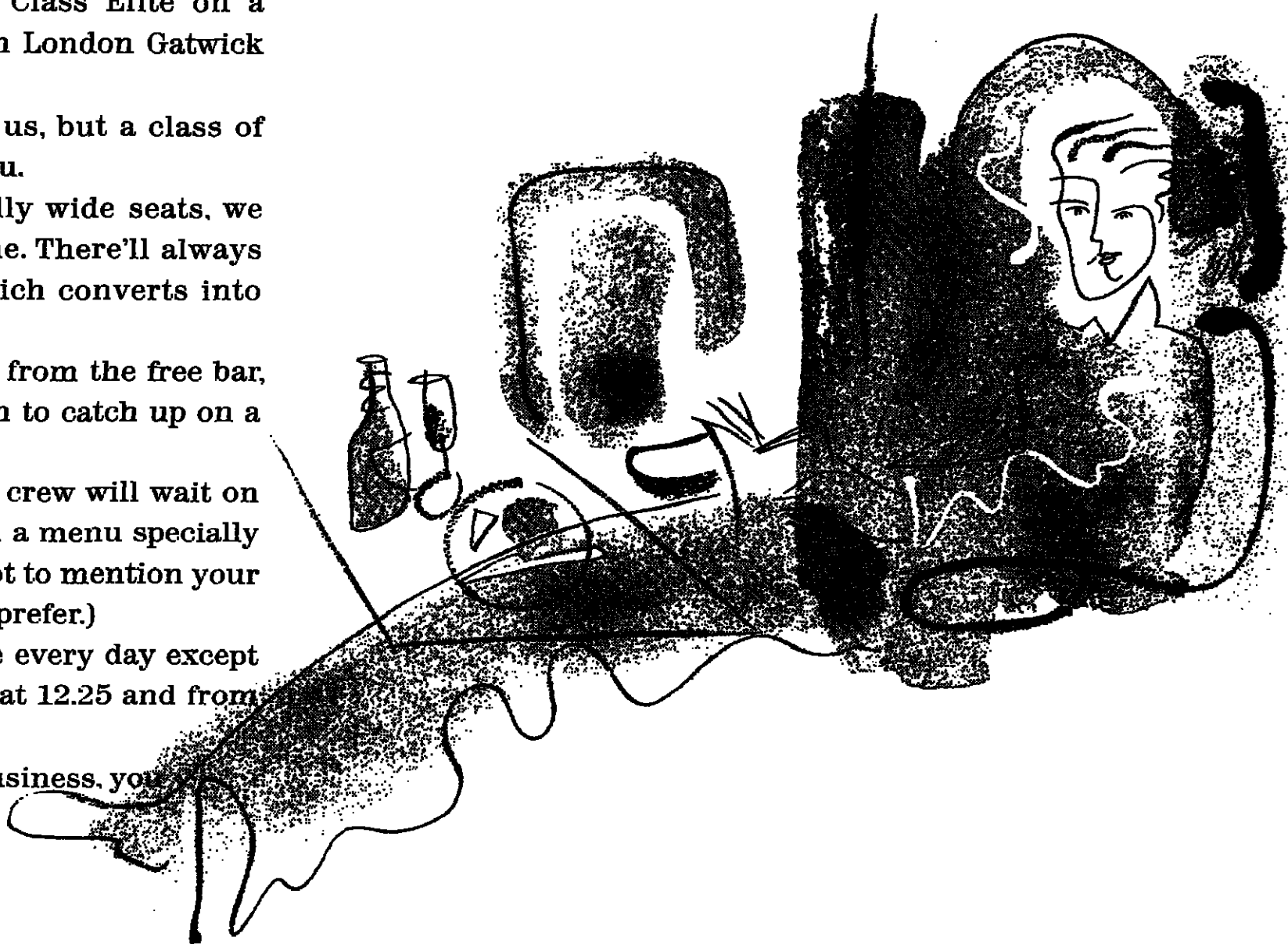
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Saddam food pilfering halts UN aid shipments

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE UN World Food Programme has suspended all relief food shipments to Iraq following White House allegations that President Saddam Hussein has pilfered substantial amounts of flour destined primarily for Kurdish refugees in the north. A UN official confirmed yesterday that an entire warehouse containing more than 3,000 tons of Finnish wheat-flour had been emptied last week and that the flour was unaccounted for.

A terse White House statement claimed Baghdad had "systematically diverted" food shipments into the ministry of trade's normal food rationing system which was "another cynical example of Saddam's disregard for vulnerable groups of women and

children in favour of actions designed to buttress his regime's standing".

The UN official could not identify the whereabouts of the warehouse. Unnamed administration sources said here yesterday the flour had been destined for the Kurdish city of Mosul, in northern Iraq, and that at least 87 tons of it had been found in Saddam's home town of Tikrit, about 150 miles to the south; how it had been found, they would not say.

The food programme has protested to the Iraqi foreign ministry, which was said to be helping to find the missing flour. Until it was all accounted for there would be no new food shipments to Iraq, though supplies that had already reached the country would be distributed.

The suspension was a standard procedure in such circumstances and was necessary to retain the confidence of donor nations, said the UN official.

The food aid has been going primarily to Kurdish refugees in the north, though the programme has also been distributing smaller amounts to groups in the south through the International Committee of the Red Cross. Food and medicine are exempt from the continuing UN trade embargo against Iraq, however, Baghdad has little money to pay for either and Washington is determined to maintain sanctions until Saddam is removed.

Having alerted the UN to the Iraqi food diversions, Washington is expected to take no direct action and airstrikes of food to the Kurds by allied military forces and private organisations are not likely to be affected.

Paris: Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi oil minister, said Iraq was now in a state of bankruptcy and urged international aid for Baghdad, in an interview in the French daily, *Libération*.

The Gulf war, he said, had set Iraq back several centuries. He conceded, however, that it will be extremely difficult for the West to do anything for the country as long as Saddam remained in power.

Sheikh Yamani, who masterminded Saudi Arabia's oil policy from 1962 to 1986, said political stability in the Middle East was necessary to create stable oil prices. He suggested a type of Marshall Plan - the 1947 plan in which the US extended aid to Europe to help postwar reconstruction - to bring Iraq back into this century following the destruction it suffered during the war.

Although he considered it fair to take 30 per cent of Iraqi oil revenues as war reparations, Sheikh Yamani felt the country would be unable to buy food, service its debts, compensate Kuwait or finance reconstruction with what remained. (AFP)

Leading article, page 15

Algerians consult on cabinet

Algiers - As Algerian fundamentalists buried their dead, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the new prime minister, met the leaders of some of the country's political parties for consultation about the make-up of a new government (Penny Gibbins writes).

However, the Islamic Salvation Front, the main fundamentalist opposition, was apparently not consulted. It had been behind the violent clashes during the past few days which led President Chadli Benjedid to declare a state of siege and send in the army. Western diplomats put the death toll in the pitched battles between fundamentalist demonstrators and security forces on Tuesday at between 40 and 50. The government has given no figures.

Hostage rebuff

Beirut - Sayed Abbas Musawi, the secretary-general of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, has suggested that Douglas Hogg, the foreign office minister, would be unwelcome in Lebanon and, therefore, his scheduled visit here would not help to win the release of British hostages. The visit, which is expected next week, would "only bring more evil", Sayed Musawi told a press conference here.

Iranian vow

Nicosia - Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Iran's leading hardline MP, has vowed to disrupt President Rafsanjani's plans to woo back rich Iranian exiles to help to rebuild the economy. (Reuters)

Arms ban plea

New York - Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, wants the weapons ban on Iraq to be enforced by the security council's sanctions committee. (AP)



Liquid assets: frail but spirited, Abie Nathan, who wants Israel's law banning contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation repealed, ends a 40-day hunger strike with chicken soup at President Herzog's residence in Jerusalem after they met yesterday

Saudis court Abu Nidal

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AS Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, tries to regain the support of Arab backers who have cold-shouldered him since the Gulf war, it has emerged that Saudi Arabia has allowed one of his most hated enemies, the Abu Nidal guerrilla group, to set up an office in Jeddah. This is seen as a deliberate ploy to undermine Mr Arafat's leadership of the PLO.

Yesterday, the Palestinian news agency, Wafa, reported that Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, had sent a message to Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, presumably in an attempt to revive relations, broken off after Mr Arafat's support for President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

However, there is every sign that Riyadh remains opposed to the continued leadership of Mr Arafat. Previous attempts by the PLO to regain the favour of the Saudis have been spurned.

Saudi Arabia used to be one of Mr Arafat's strongest financial backers, and never sup-

ported the breakaway Abu Nidal extremist group. However, after the PLO leader's decision to side with Saddam, Saudi officials began meeting representatives from other Palestinian groups in an attempt to set up an alternative leadership.

Efforts to topple Mr Arafat were stepped up once the war ended. The decision to allow a representative of the Abu Nidal organisation, committed to the overthrow of Mr Arafat, to set up an office in Jeddah is the latest evidence of Saudi Arabia's disillusionment with the PLO leader.

Despite past links between Abu Nidal, its leader Sabri al-Banna, and the Iraqi regime, the Saudis appear to be prepared to deal with anyone fighting the Palestinian cause provided it is not Mr Arafat.

Xavier Raufer, a counter-insurgency adviser to the French government, said recently that Prince Faisal went to Damascus, the Syrian capital, on March 6 to meet Palestinian delegations, including leading members of the Abu Nidal organisation.

Prince Faisal was reported to have assured the Palestinians they were welcome in Saudi Arabia. M. Raufer suggested this was in part an expression of thanks for the low level of guerrilla activity during the Gulf conflict.

Failure by Baker might open way for Europe role

By RICHARD OWEN

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, is reportedly considering a fifth visit to the Middle East despite continuing Israeli-Arab differences over the role of the United Nations in any peace conference and who should represent the Palestinians.

His gruelling shuttle diplomacy might just pay off. But if he "drops the ball", in the jargon of Middle East diplomacy, could Europe step into avoid a dangerous vacuum?

According to David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, there is a potential "active role" for the European Community in convening and then helping to guide a peace conference. In Paris this week, Mr Levy agreed with Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, current holder of the EC presidency, that the EC could work alongside the US and the Soviet Union to bring about a regional or international conference under UN auspices.

A UN-sponsored conference in Helsinki this week, which brought Palestinian and (left-wing) Israeli representatives together, agreed that the European countries do have special geographical and historical ties with the Middle East. Yet these links have not been translated into political influence. The EC has confined itself to statements - beginning with the 1980 Venice declaration on the need to "associate" the PLO with the peace process - and to support for the US.

Both Britain and France played a directly interventionist role in the region during the Gulf crisis, alongside the US. As the two European permanent members of the UN Security Council, and as major arms suppliers, Britain and France have a key role in the postwar Middle East disarmament effort. The EC has an agreed peace policy based on the exchange of land for peace, the recognition of Israel by the PLO, the need for Palestinian self-determination (possibly in a Palestinian state), and the implementation of UN resolution 242. Why should it not succeed if Baker fails?

One answer lies in the deep-seated hostility of the present right-wing Israeli government towards European intervention. As Mr Yasser Abed Rabbo of the PLO observed at Helsinki, America's ability to put pressure on Israel is subject to "domestic constraints" - above all, the influence of the Jewish lobby in Congress - which do not apply in Europe. For this reason, however, Israel regards Europe as "pro-Arab".

Above all, Europe does not have the financial clout of the US. As Haim Ramon of the Israeli Labour Party said, "those who pay have a say." The EC, moreover, still has no coherent common foreign or defence policy. Bill Quandt of the Brookings Institution believes Europe might move towards a dominant role in the region after 1992.

If there is to be greater European influence, it is more likely to take the form of a plan by Gianni De Michelis, Italy's foreign minister, to extend the successful Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe process to the Middle East, initially by organising a conference in the Mediterranean. New links between Europe and North Africa would gradually draw in the Middle East proper, including the peoples fighting for control of former Palestine. Trade and economic links would foster an atmosphere in which, eventually, bitter and long-standing disputes might take a back seat.

Israel, in this view, would wish to be involved because it wants to be part of the 1992 process and conducts much of its trade with the EC. It is, on the other hand, a long-term hope for a region which cries out for swift and decisive action.



De Michelis: seeking to expand security process

Settlers get more homes in Gaza

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN GUSH KATIF, GAZA STRIP

WHEN a cool sea breeze blows across this tiny settlement town it is briefly possible to forget that the ranch-style homes being built here are near some of the most violent and depressed Palestinian refugee camps of the Israeli occupation.

"This is not the Gaza Strip, this is the Negev coast," Yossi Goodfield, the manager of the Palm Beach hotel, said. Like most of the residents he would like to forget that he is sharing a small portion of land with 700,000 hostile Palestinians. "I don't know anything about what goes on up the coast," he said, pointing north to where the refugee shanty towns lie. "I don't go there."

Yet, despite the barbed-wire fencing, the constant military patrols and the regular bouts of stoning from local youths, the estimated 4,000 residents of the 19 settlements along this strip are convinced that they are about to witness the flourishing of their controversial community.

Although international opinion has repeatedly condemned the settlement of Israelis in the occupied territories, Gush Katif is on the verge of a large-scale expansion which is likely to double its population in the coming months and turn what is regarded as a marginal outpost of right-wing zealots into an established town. Yesterday work began on laying foundations for 1,500 homes.

"The air and atmosphere here are pleasant," Zvi Headel, the region's Israeli mayor, said. He pointed out that life would be made better later this month when a new road is opened. This will allow residents to drive into the Negev by-passing the more notorious trouble spots along the current route.

"We have an agreement with the ministry that they will build 2,000 homes in the next two years," he said. "God willing, the Ethiopians and Russians will come here," he added, admitting that about 20 newly arrived Soviet families were already living in Gaza. He emphasised, however, that, out of deference to American and Soviet sensibilities, he could not actively attract them to settle in Gaza.

Bush casts his net in Bible Belt

The churches are a key constituency in next year's White House race, and the president is already fishing for their members' votes, Susan Ellicott writes

AMONG the 20,000 Southern Baptists gathered in Atlanta yesterday to hear President Bush address their annual convention were two estate agents from the dusty plains of Fort Worth, Texas. Finding themselves in conversation with a visiting "Britisher", the Baptist lay preachers solemnly declared that the chief source of contemporary America's ills was the "illegal deaths of 15 million babies a year" at the hands of abortionists.

It is a fair bet that the two Texans voted Republican in the last presidential election. Mr Bush is probably counting on their support at the polls next year when he runs again. As a veteran campaigner, he knows it is better to steer clear of abortion before a group that is the largest of the American Protestant denominations, overwhelmingly white and one of the most conservative.

The Baptist delegates, or "messengers", wanted "a patriotic family emphasis ... at a time of inspirational motivation," said Herb Hollinger, the vice-president of Baptist Press, the church's newsletter. So he was grateful that Mr Bush's advance team had suggested the president would, against a backdrop of the Stars and Stripes, focus his address on his administration's child-care policies.

The president's trip to the heart of the Bible Belt highlighted the expanding role of religious groups in debates on social issues, including homelessness, drugs, crime, abor-

tion and war, despite a constitutional separation in the United States of church and state. The rejection by many Americans of traditional gospel teachings has nudged several mainstream Protestant denominations to reconsider their stand on morality. Surveys show that a growing number of church members are shunning restrictions on artificial birth control and extramarital sex.

Many religious leaders now



Pilgrim's progress: Bush winning at horseshoes in Washington before he met Baptists in Atlanta

consider that concessions to permissive lifestyles are the only way to break the steady decline in church membership over the past three decades. Among the most dramatic shifts is the publication by a national Presbyterian task force of a report urging their leaders to endorse sex outside marriage and among homosexual partners. *Keeping Body and Soul Together* sold more than 30,000 copies within days in the run-up to the Presbyterian church's annual meeting, held this week in Baltimore.

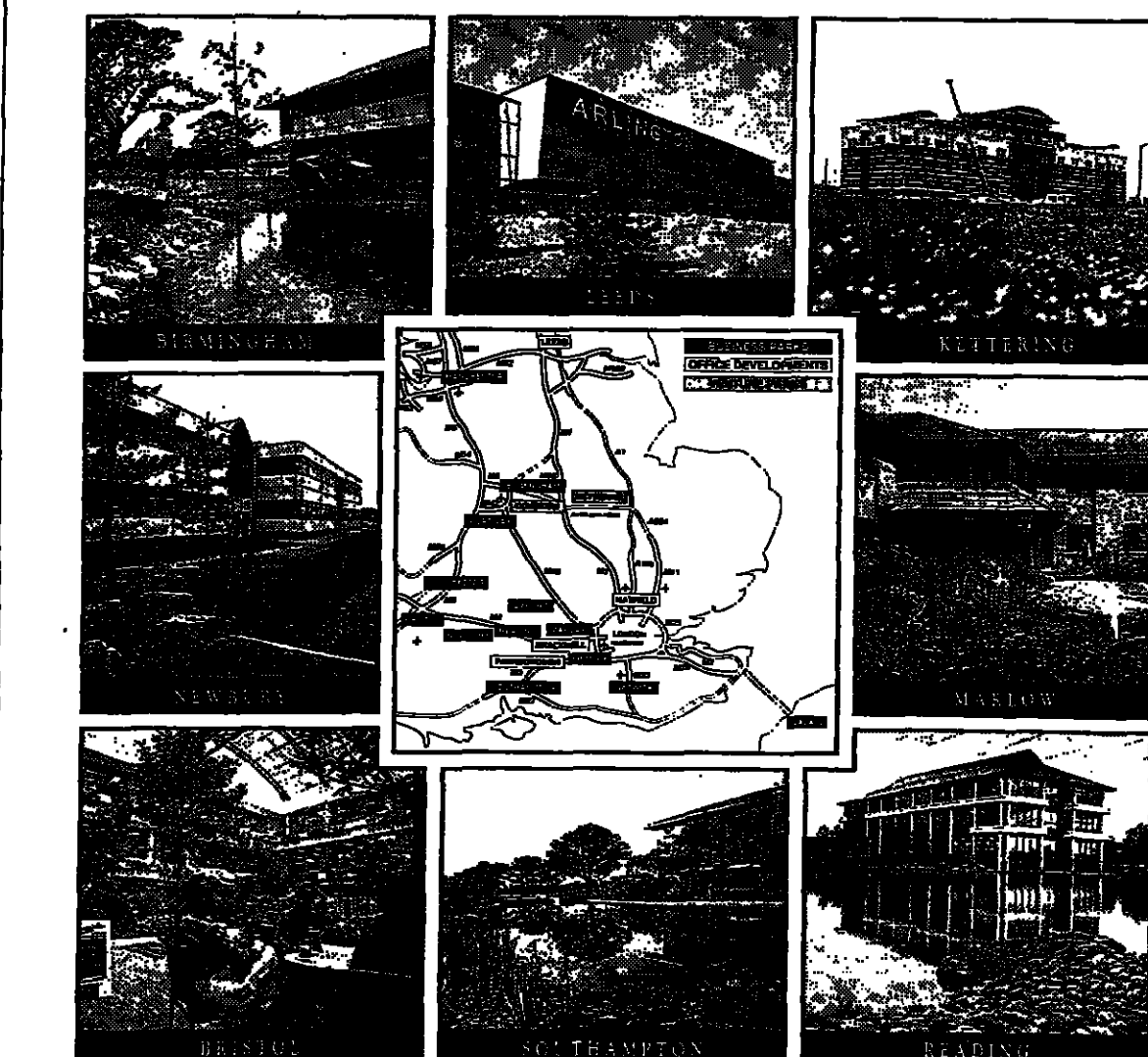
Some church leaders have criticised it for forsaking the moral principles of the Bible by recommending that the condition for sex should be a relationship that involves "genuine love, deep caring and mutual commitment" and not simply a marriage certificate. The Episcopal church is embroiled in a bitterly contested plan to reverse a 1979 resolution forbidding the ordination of active lesbians and gays.

The United Methodists are preparing to discuss next year a suggestion from a church-appointed panel that they strike from their *Book of Discipline* a clause describing homosexuality as "incompat-

ible with Christian teaching". The reform branch of Judaism in the United States has already taken steps to advertise its acceptance of homosexual rabbis in some synagogues.

By contrast, in Atlanta, the Southern Baptists are mulling over whether to support tax credits to help mothers pay for day-care or secondary school tuition. "We're kind of struggling" on this, admits Mr Hollinger. But he can safely predict that the leaders of America's 15 million Southern Baptists, who grew from a breakaway group from the Church of England in the 17th century, will speak forcefully against softening their calls for exclusive heterosexuality.

By upbringing, Mr Bush is an old-style Episcopalian who has said that he believes in a benevolent God whom he has a duty to serve through public office. But he has never lost sight of the need to appeal to the religious base of middle America. His views on many divisive issues are not known, although he sought the blessing of religious groups for his use of force against Iraq by invoking the ancient Christian doctrine of a "just war". Yesterday, in a sure vote-winner with a crowd that days earlier had cheered the former marine colonel, Oliver North, of Iran-Contra fame, Mr Bush praised the Southern Baptists for upholding America's "belief in freedom" and for converting more than 1,000 Gulf service personnel.



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Kate Muir talks to Helena Kennedy, QC, about her campaign for equality for women at the Bar

Time, gentlemen, please

The barrister is, on the whole, a very traditional species. Its natural habitat is the quadrangle, where it feels safest. After all, it grew up in a public school quadrangle, passed its student years on the lawns of an Oxford quadrangle, and its adulthood crossing the leafy quadrangles of Lincoln's Inn.

The species finds the Inns of Court a comforting place to work: the barristers' dining-rooms still serve roast beef, overcooked veg and spotted dick and custard at long schoolroom tables, and the barristers' friends still wear a sort of school uniform, although blazers have become gown and wig.

But like any species confined with its own kind for a long period, it becomes institutionalised. It needs to be shaken out of its comfortable clubs and rooms with leather-topped desks and walls of dusty *All England Law Reports*. With that in mind, enter Helena Kennedy, QC, dressed in black silk knickerbockers.

Yet again, Britain's feminist, socialist, media-star lawyer is making plans to stir up the barristerhood. The knickerbockers were, incidentally, her chosen costume when she took silk two months ago, and are traditionally worn at the ceremony by men, never women. The usurping of the knickerbockers should have forewarned the legal establishment that worse was to come, for this week she publicised her plot to promote equal opportunities for women at the Bar, in a paper calling for a committee to monitor the matter.

Now, were we in the pages of *The Sun*, and were the Bar a Labour council, we would be talking loony leftie wimmin's committees, and there would be much pouring of scorn. But next month, when the respected QC with 19 years' service at the Bar takes her proposal to the Bar Council, it will be considered seriously.

When Ms Kennedy was called to the Bar in 1972, the possibility of its kowtowing to equal opportunities was beyond hope. Even four years ago, her letters to the Bar Council were all but ignored. Suddenly, however, the establishment has caught up with the radical lawyer. The leftie has gone legitimate. "A friend said to me: 'All those things you used to shout about, Helena — the treatment of women, rape trials, the miscarriage of justice against the Irish — suddenly everyone accepts them.' He expected me to be pleased, but I'm just angry we had to waste all that time."

Only in the past year has the Bar

agreed to abide by the sex discrimination legislation — before, it was exempt. Practices are still catching up with the outside world. Young women pupils tell Ms Kennedy that interviewers still ask if they have a boyfriend, if they plan to get married, and if so what childcare arrangements they would make. Men do not face the same prying.

A popular question is: are you a feminist? "The terror that word strikes into nice, white, middle-class men..." says Ms Kennedy happily from her Hampstead sofa. "They fear some woman, some ball-breaker is going to come into their chambers and make their lives hell."

She resents that male barristers can have a career and children, while women often have to choose between the two. A few women who have extended their maternity leave have found their chambers do not want them back. "There are no real provisions for maternity leave. The woman still has to pay rent on her chambers, even though she is

not using the office, telephone or clerking system; and being self-employed, she also loses her salary."

So it is not surprising that there are only two women High Court judges out of 83, both in the Family Division, and 20 circuit judges out of 428. Statistics show women are made judges and QCs later in their careers than men. Yet 18 per cent of practising barristers are female, and the student intake is half and half. "As the group who are making decisions about others' discrimination, we should make sure we have a clean record from the point of view of women and ethnic minorities," she says.

The polemic can make Ms Kennedy sound sincere but rather dire; a bad dinner-party guest, but in between deep convictions, there are lots of jokes. Such as when she and Patricia Scotland, a black barrister from London, were made QCs by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. "They said I got it because I was Scottish, and she got it because she thought she was Scottish." Ms Kennedy was born in Glasgow 40 years ago, lived in a council house and went to a girls' secondary school, while her father was a print worker at the *Daily Record*. She left home aged 18 to go to the Council for Legal Education in London, and did not see a quadrangle until she arrived in the Inns of Court. So socialism was inbred, rather than acquired. She is still a member of the Labour party — the new Labour party, which says it is right-on to earn a large salary, live in a whopping white house once owned



Knickerbocker glory: Helena Kennedy outside the Doughty Street chambers with her children, Clio and Keir

by R.D. Laing, and have a nanny to look after three children. And why not? "I still feel passionately about social justice. I am angry about what the Tories have done over 12 years."

She did approve of the government's shaking up of the legal profession, but plans to cut legal aid, she announced this week. "Justice costs money, and the position of justice in a democracy is crucial. People don't see the change as directly affecting them like health service cuts — they don't need legal aid, even if the great unwashed do."

Her campaigning for the unwashed, or unfairly treated, still continues. "Perhaps I shout less, because in your forties you find yourself closer to real power, to Opposition members, etc, and you can effect change — perhaps in a slower, more conciliatory way."

Television has been a great tool for Ms Kennedy in her crusade. She was the reporter on the campaigning *Heart of the Matter* series, and co-

wrote a drama series about a feisty women barrister who fights... etc, etc, called *Blind Justice*, which continues in the autumn. There have been occasional documentaries — one on women prisoners in America and their children, and *Antenna* this week on the forensic evidence in the Maguire cases.

She is convincing on television, too small and too Scottish to be a real presenter, so her views seem more genuine. At one point she nearly slipped into the media abyss full-time, but loved the Bar too much. She has also just written a book on women and crime.

Becoming a QC has opened up new areas for her — big murder trials, and a court martial arising from the Gulf war. The radical route to the top, setting up her own chambers with a group of like-minded friends, and taking on everyone from the Chelsea Barracks

bomber to victims of police violence or racist attacks, has paid off. "I never made a career plan. I was too busy," she says, but she ended up in the sought-after and trendy Doughty Street chambers.

Earning an amount with a lot of noughts on it is an unexpected end for Ms Kennedy. There is a secret file, in the bowels of the Lord Chancellor's department, on every barrister, consulted when appointments are made, or discipline doled out. "I only hope they abide by the rules of evidence and don't trust hearsay," she says. "Judges can give you bad marks. If you're appropriately askeeking, that probably goes on file too. If I'd worried about that, I might as well have given up."

Such a move was suggested to her by an older barrister years ago. He took her aside and said: "If you want to have a career at the Bar, don't mix it with politics." She ignored him, and the mixing made her. Besides, he was a Tory MP.

Whose time of the month?

Postnatal depression, headaches, PMS — the things men catch from women

Menopause for Father (Open University Press, £9.95) and of a paper on "Fathers and Postnatal Mood Disturbances", says: "When I interviewed 100 fathers about their pregnancies, ten reported having symptoms, ranging from nausea and stomach aches to claustrophobia, to a degree which made them take time off from work."

Dr Malcolm Carruthers, a pioneer of male hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and the concept of a male "menopause", whose Gold Cross medical centre opened its doors last month in Harley Street promoting "his and hers" HRT, believes that "men can now invoke their hormones as a legitimate excuse for feeling a certain way. I've had a number of cases of men with hot flushes as well as other symptoms of the female menopause, such as depression and irritability."

Since couples sometimes seem to ape each other's illnesses, it may be possible to imagine the day when some men claim premenstrual tension. Dr Lewis says premenstrual syndrome (PMS) — "tension is a verbatim word these days" — among men has been jokingly mentioned at conferences and it is something he has thought of looking at, "as research shows that about 10 per cent of men get acute physical symptoms during their wives' premenstrual period."

Dr David Zigmond, an expert in psychosomatic illnesses at London's Hammersmith hospital, thinks that "if a man knows his wife has premenstrual tension at a certain time every month, he will subconsciously anticipate that and become tense at the same time". Some might say this is entirely understandable, especially in the face of severe PMS. Dr Zigmond thinks such a reaction is generally "about the spillover and contamination of language. Distress always finds a current knowledge and as men know more about women's illnesses, they will be more likely to attempt to reproduce them."

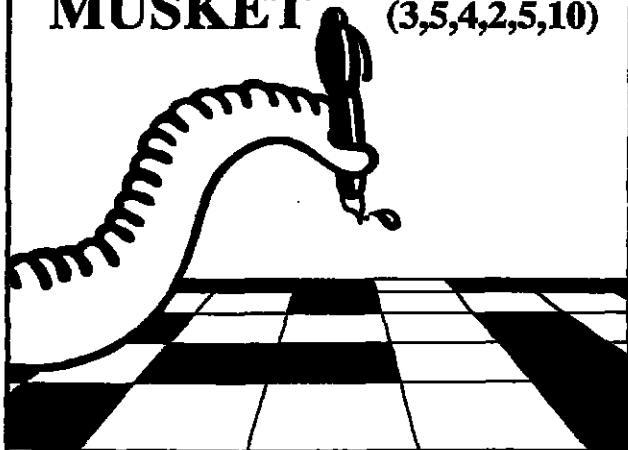
Although women have a reputation as the more neurotic sex, Dr Zigmond points out that many so-called women's problems have a concrete basis in hormonal cycles, whereas men's can only be psychosomatic. "Men taking on women's illnesses could be a good thing for women, because it de-pathologises them," Dr Lewis says. "As soon as men get something it loses much of its negative, neurotic element."

Dr Charlie Lewis, a lecturer in developmental psychology at Lancaster university, and the author of *Becoming a*

'Men can now invoke their hormones as a legitimate excuse'

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When there's a will there's a will

Most Britons are still leaving everything to chance. What makes people face up to their own mortality?

IN THE midst of life we are in death. In the midst of Waterloo station, even. A discreet memento mori appeared on the station concourse last week, in the form of a booth where travellers could arrange to write their last will and testament, before they ventured on the perils of Network South-East. A specialist will-writing service, Wills Registry Company, had set up its pitch for three days, to remind commuters of a task that most of us undertake with reluctance, if at all.

Only about a third of British adults have nerved themselves to look death in the face, by making formal provision for the future destination of the gold cufflinks, the aquamarine brooch, and that murky oil study inherited from Aunt Dot, which just might be a Constable.

A survey published this week by *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine, goes further, asserting that seven out of ten of us die without making a will. This may overstate how far we flinch from contemplation of our own extinction. A Law Commission survey in 1989 found that only 33 per cent of those questioned had made a will. But a more detailed breakdown modified the impression of irresponsibility. Only 8 per cent of those aged 18-30 had done so. But for the group aged between 31 and 44 the proportion had doubled. For the 45-59 age-

group, the proportion was 41 per cent, and for the over-sixties, 60 per cent.

This breakdown suggests that the spirit of "it'll never happen to me" is still strong in the young, but gives way to recognition that it probably will, as years and responsibilities accumulate. Most of those who had not made a will told the Law Commission survey they meant to do so, and fewer than 30 per cent of the total had decided that they did not need to. Of these, some may have had few possessions, and some may have

known or supposed that the official intestacy rules, covering everyone who dies without making a will, would sort things out more or less as they wished. Not surprisingly, the more affluent were the most likely to have made a will.

Little research has been done into the motives and behaviour of testators, but Alison Plowrie, the secretary of the Law Society's wills and equity committee, believes: "It is when mortality starts staring you in the face that you think of making a will. When you marry or have a baby — or

when a couple have to make a flight across the Atlantic, leaving the children behind, and wonder what might happen to the kids if the plane crashed."

It may be that the number who see the need to leave a record of their intentions is rising.

"Inflation and rising home ownership mean that more people fall into the inheritance tax range," says Roger Taylor, a Consumers' Association spokesman who helped compile this week's study. "It is unwise to suppose, without checking, that the intestacy rules will arrange things the way you want. They are very rigid, and can send everything somewhere you would never have wanted — even to the taxman."

The increasing numbers of couples living together without getting married have also swelled the numbers likely to find that the intestacy rules do not meet their wishes. The rules take no account of such partnerships.

Many people write their own wills, with the help of the standard forms and guides available from the Consumers' Association and others. But if their affairs are complex, *Which?* recommends that they seek professional advice, shopping around for quotations.

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Galleries: the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and BP Portraits, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

Summer shower holds surprises

The sensible ambition of the Royal Academy for its 223rd Summer Exhibition would seem to be achieving the Pirandellian ideal of "same as before, better than before". The summer show must always have its talking-points, but should not be too shocking. Of course, it differs slightly each year and has evolved considerably from the typical Summer Exhibitions of 20 years ago, but any revolution must be done by stealth.

For that reason, the first room this year comes as a slight surprise, a redefining. Through the years, such international art grandes as Balbus, De Kooning, Tanay, Vieira da Silva, Ghika and Jasper Johns have graciously agreed to become Honorary RAs. But the usual point about being "honorary" is that the honoree is no longer expected to do anything to justify the title. So it is unexpected to find all six represented here with characteristic work: the Balbus in particular, an unmistakable image of pubescent eroticism, dominates visitors' first impressions.

Starting with fireworks has advantages, but can leave the rest dimmed by dust from the fall-out. The Academy adds to this risk by also placing in the first room a superb new Kitaj townscape, fine groups by Robert Medley and Craigie Aitchison, and the tribute showing of Rodrigo Moynihan. The latter was arguably the most distinguished painter among the academicians who have died in the last year. Then, in the next room, the memorial group of paintings by William Deering (though it includes a couple of harmless, respectable portraits) indicates his power with several second world war paintings.

Elsewhere, the mixture is much as before, though perhaps brighter and better. The abstracts are again spread around among the representational paintings and prints, instead of having a frosty little enclave to themselves. Several of the newer generation of comical/satirical realists, such as the painter Mick Rooney and the sculptor Neil Jeffries, spread their irreverent spirit far and wide.

Some familiar figures risk becoming over-familiar. Anthony Green is still rummaging around in the vaguely erotic backwaters (or bathwaters, in this case) of his early life for oddly shaped subjects. Jeffery Camp is still sending pastel-shaded nudes cavorting through the upper atmosphere in sinuous abandon; though Derek at Dungeness reminds us that he can do better.

Against that can be set some new Tom Phillips, notably the pastel *Palm Dance*, which suggests he has just discovered Claude Lorraine and the British modernist lino-cutters of the interwar years, and a stunning

Brighter and better outlook: Sydney Harpley's sculpture, *A Rainy Day*, enlivens the central hall of the Royal Academy

selection from Anthony Whishaw. It starts with some hallucinatory fragmented images, as of a born-again Cubist, and climaxes with the large and dramatic *Untitled 1987/90*, which shows a group of Magi-like figures moving across a dark and stormy landscape.

The portrait is one class of exhibit, inescapable even 20 years ago, which has now virtually vanished from the Royal Academy repertoire. So it is a happy coincidence that this week sees the opening of the annual BP Portrait Award show. A few years ago, the 54 paintings on view at the National Portrait Gallery would have been bettering on the Academy doors for admission, and most of them, given the entries' vaguely academic style, would have made it.

This year the innovation of last year in not requiring photographs of the subjects is made permanent, but the majority of the portraits stick close to photographic reality. That, of course, entails significant distortions of what the unaided eye sees.

On the other hand, the question of whether photographic source material has been used matters little if the final painting is striking enough. Perhaps it is just chance that the most telling entries are strongly formalised, as with Shanti Panchal's *Letter from India*, painted in his typically muted but glowing colours, or Donna McLean's *A Bright Square of Sky* with Gavin. Both of these pictures only loosely qualify as portraits.

The same applies also to Chris O'Neil's *Crime Scene*, which even its title proclaims to be little concerned with portraiture. The winner (Justin Mortimer's *Three Seated Figures*) and commended are all portraits, but hardly gain in interest from this fact. If the Academy's disregard of portraiture implies doubt about the continuing validity of the form, here is reason for thinking thus.

Sir Eduardo Paolozzi figures powerfully in the Academy show, and announced the prizes for the portrait competition. He also has a show of his own on at the Goethe Institute, Works from Germany. Through models of architectural/sculptural projects, small sculptures and graphic works, the show bears witness to the enormous creative fruitfulness of his three decades teaching and working in Germany.

Further evidence of this cross-channel cross-fertilisation may be found at the William Jackson Gallery, where two of Paolozzi's German pupils, Christoph Bergmann and Andreas von Weizsäcker, have a show brightly entitled *Beiles, Wings and Paper Things*.

Both artists seem to demonstrate fetching kinds of dementia. Weizsäcker makes wondrous banners and strange mouldings out of paper, shaped to resemble, for example, a

television set. Bergmann carves meticulously finished human figures in wood that contain intricate collapsible constructions, or evocations of biplane wings and such, made in happy commemoration of a childhood mispent with model kits. The workmanship of both artists is exquisite, the ideas bold. Clearly, Paolozzi's liberating influence is entirely to the good.

223rd Summer Exhibition. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (01-439 7438) daily 10am-9pm, June 9-August 18. Admission £3.60, concessions £2.40.

BP Portrait Award 1991. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (01-306 0055) Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-6, Sun 2-6, until September 1. Eduardo Paolozzi: Works from Germany. Goethe Institute, 50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, SW7 (01-581 3344) Mon-Thurs 12-6, Fri 10-4, Sat 9.30-12.30, until July 6. Bodies, Wings and Paper Things. William Jackson Gallery, 28 Cork Street, W1 (01-287 2121) Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1, until June 22.

RECORDS: ROCK

Pseudo-Celtic hollow ring

Whether headlining at last year's huge free festival in their native Glasgow or regurgitating old Bacharach and David songs on *Top of the Pops*, Deacon Blue have embraced mainstream success while maintaining a modish veneer of sensitivity. Chip below the surface, however, and there is the dull glint of a production-line mentality at work on *Fellow Hoodlums*.

An exquisitely produced collection of pop-rock tunes, it is spiced with a more generous dash of pseudo-Celtic roots than was their multi-platinum 1989 album *When the World Knows Your Name*. Self-conscious Glaswegian references are scattered like confetti — "he walked down Hope Street", "the Clyde was full of old tyres" — and a fiddle tags along discreetly behind the jolly bounce of "Twist and Shout" (no relation).

But while Ricky Ross raps (well, sort of) with a Scottish accent on "The Day That Jackie Jumped Jail", he sings in the grating fake Americanese that is the *lingua franca* and besetting vice of mainstream melodic rock. Lorraine McIntosh's counterpoint vocals highlight one or two lovely choruses, notably on the current single "Your Swaying Arms", but this is scant compensation for the album's overall hollow ring.

Siouxie has softened her image. Hair and hemline have come down. So too has the ululating ice-maiden call, which has given way to a more carefully modulated, drifting delivery on many of the tracks on *Superstition*. The Ban-shees, still whipped along by Budgie's locomotive drum motifs, are as engaging as ever, in a more considered body of

Deacon Blue: *Fellow Hoodlums* (Columbia 468550 2)
Siouxie & The Banshees: *Superstition* (Polygram 847731-2)
Seal: *Seal* (ZTT 9031-74567-2)

work than previous efforts. There are, nevertheless, lots of neat touches which set the pulse racing — the clattery percussion and sinuous hints of Eastern promise in "Kiss Them for Me", the chiming guitar of "Shadowtime", and the sinister quickstep shuffle of "Got to Get Up". *Superstition* underlines yet again the simple truth that the Ban-shees are the only original punk group to have stayed the course with their dignity, if not ideals, intact.

Seal is the Terence Trent D'Arby of the House generation. Having got a toe in the door as the singer and co-writer of Adamski's No 1 single "Killer", he has since shouldered his way in to the chart with his own hits, "Crazy" and "Future Love Paradise". Neither as vain nor as camp as D'Arby, he may have less of the instant star appeal, but by the same token is also less likely to go off the deep end in the long run.

On his cunningly-titled debut, *Seal*, the songs burn on slow fuses threaded through long, neo-house grooves. Boistered by Trevor Horn's state-of-the-art production, he flaunts the kind of languid soul voice that would command respect no matter what he was doing with it. Some of the later songs get a bit woolly and with just nine tracks spread over 50 minutes there is a case to be made for self-editing and sharpening.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ROCK NEWS

● They said it would never happen: Dire Straits has announced its first album of new material since *Brothers in Arms* in 1985. On *Easy Street* is released on September 9 and a tour is planned to coincide. UK dates so far: Arena, Sheffield (0602 483456) August 30, 31, Sept 1, 2, 3; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4139) Sept 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; SECC, Glasgow (041 227 5511) Sept 11, 12, 13, 14; Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) Sept 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.

● Deborah Harry plays at Coliseum, St Austell (072 681 4004) on July 2; Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 262957) July 3; Royal Hall, Nottingham (0602 482626)

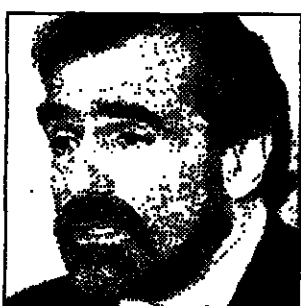
July 4; Civic Centre, Wolverhampton (0902 312030) July 5; Wembley Stadium (081-900 1234) July 13; Apollo, Manchester (081 273 3775) July 14; Music Hall, Aberdeen (0224 641122) July 16; Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (031 226 2427) July 17; Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 226 4879) July 18; Mayflower, Southampton (0703 330089) July 20 and Hammersmith Odeon (081-748 4081) on July 21.

● Pete Townshend receives the title of Living Legend at the International Rock Awards at London Arena, June 12. Sting, ZZ Top and the Scorpions will perform live or via satellite.

CINEMA

Parisian protection for precious old projections

David Robinson on a French/American initiative that may encourage other countries to take more care of fragile old film stock



Minds meeting: Jack Lang (left) and Martin Scorsese

A meeting of minds between the French culture minister and the director of *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *Goodfellas* is largely responsible for "Ciné-Mémoire", a new festival to be inaugurated in Paris in October. Last autumn, Martin Scorsese accompanied Jack Lang when he announced increased Government funding for film conservation. Out of this encounter came the idea for "Ciné-Mémoire", a large-scale event intended to bring home to the public the importance of saving the national film heritage.

At a press conference in Paris, Lang has now outlined plans for "Ciné-Mémoire", as well as a project to turn the Palais de Tokyo into a permanent "Palais des Arts de l'Image".

The festival will show 60 cinema masterpieces which have been restored or reclaimed from oblivion, all in the best available versions. The Palais de Tokyo will be the central venue, but shows will take place in theatres and cinemas throughout Paris, including the Opéra Bastille, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and the Grand Rex.

Silent films will be shown with live orchestral accom-

paniment. Original period scores to be performed include Pietro Mascagni's music for the 1915 *Rapsodia Sinfonica*, which represented a special collaboration between the composer and the director, Nino Oxilia; and the 1925 *Salammbô*, with its original score by the Impressionist composer Florent Schmitt.

The films will be provided by 20 international archives; the British National Film Archive is to present several restored colour films from the Forties, including *The Thief of Baghdad*, *Blanche Fury* and *Saraband for Dead Lovers*.

Scorsese's concern with the conservation and restoration of films is a passion that competes with his film-making activities. A year ago, along with seven other American directors — Woody Allen, Francis Coppola, Stanley Kubrick, George Lucas, Sydney Pollack, Robert Redford and Steven Spielberg — he set up the Film Foundation, with the object of safeguarding the American cinema heritage.

The foundation's concern is that no other art depends on such perishable materials. The greater part of American films made before 1950 has vanished. The negatives of films of such historical significance

as *Dr Strangelove* have been allowed to disappear.

For years, Scorsese has also campaigned to draw attention to the deterioration of colour films. Many old Technicolor films have faded to near monochrome. Eastman stock of the Fifties and Sixties was notably impermanent; the prints of comparatively recent films (for example, *Barry Lyndon*) now appear flooded with nasty magenta hues.

Scorsese and his colleagues have set about persuading the studios that their own commercial interest, as well as national cultural concern, demands programmes of restoration and preservation. They have already had some successes: Universal has undertaken to spend \$1 million (£600,000) a year on restoration, and other studios are starting to follow suit. (A few, including MGM, already have their own preservation projects.)

The initiative of the Film Foundation is significant. For years, the world's film archives have been tapping at the studio doors; but inevitably they come as beggars, grateful for scraps. As a result, a considerable proportion of films preserved in archives are worn and incomplete prints that were handed down only when no longer fit for commercial use. The professional respect which the members of the Film Foundation command in the industry can work to establish a new relationship between the archives and the studios.

Scorsese will be in Paris for "Ciné-Mémoire", and will preside over the next edition of the festival, in the United States.

Wind up again

WITH *Citizen Kane* now re-issued, efforts are being made to get one of Orson Welles's last ventures, *The Other Side of the Wind*, patched up for release. In it, John Huston took the central role of a movie director holding a birthday party, though the action supposedly leaps and sputters in *Kane*-like flashbacks. Directors Peter Bogdanovich and Frank Marshall, both involved in the original production during the Seventies, are now assembling footage and endeavouring to clear the rights.

Inoperative

ANTHONY Sher is missing the final performance of *The Trial*, which ends its run at the National Theatre on Tuesday. The actor is taking time off to recover from an appendectomy. Alan Perrin substitutes for Sher as the bank clerk Joseph K. in the Steven Berkoff adaptation of Kafka's surreal tale about a search for truth in a bizarre universe.

Last chance...

THE final weekend of the Bath Festival (0225 463362) should delight chamber music fans, and especially devotees of Smetana's highly-charged romantic music. The distinguished Czech foursome, the Talich Quartet, performs his Quartets 1 and 2 in Assembly Room recitals tonight (7.30pm) and tomorrow (11am). And the superb Beaux Arts Trio includes Smetana's Piano Trio in G minor, along with Schubert and Haydn, in its Assembly Room recital tomorrow (7.30pm).

REVIEWS

Chichester and Fringe Theatre, Dance and Rock
PAGE 22



So solidly built, the argument for an ordinary new car falls apart

Every day, quality controllers at the main Mercedes-Benz assembly plant take body shells off the line and prove the strength of main seam welds by trying to split them with cold-chisels. Every day, 20 Mercedes body shells are minutely checked for build accuracy at 500 critical points by eight-axis robots. And every day you'll see used Mercedes models at your local authorised Mercedes dealership, wearing the official

Quality Used Car symbol, that have measured up to this daunting quality control procedure. That's why they're as superbly built and robust as they are, and why the Mercedes Quality Used Car scheme confidently backs them with at least 12 months mechanical insurance. It's also why an argument for an ordinary new car at the same price is no argument at all. Give your local dealer a call. One test drive is all you'll need.



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Art's civilising influence must be available to everyone, says Janet Daley, applauding opera's commercial impresarios

Real music for the masses

Opera without braying buffoons, high art without social climbers — an impossible dream? Perhaps not. Reclaiming culture for Everyman may be within our grasp. It will all depend on whether Everyman is prepared to make his voice heard, and on whether those who would grant him access can maintain their convictions in the face of snobbery and condescension. If they (or rather we) win through, there will be some serious repercussions.

The sorting of sheep from goats that underpins British social assumptions will have to be rethought. But even more destabilising will be the effect of exposure to life's richest sources of mental stimulation on people who have been fobbed off for generations with anaesthetising pop.

There could be no more surprising step in the demolition of the old hegemony than the growing movement towards opera for the

people. What art form is more strongly associated with hauteur and intimidation? What less likely candidate for popular revival than this refuge of penguin-suited, preening acolytes? Placido Domingo's wish to "sing for as many people as possible" looked about to be cruelly mocked by the Royal Opera House's decision to restrict tickets for his latest *Tosca* to an élite within an élite. Not only were there to be the usual prohibitive seat prices, but only subscribers and trust members would even get a crack at them.

In response to the outcry, the opera house's director, Jeremy Isaacs, has arranged for two live relays of the Domingo *Tosca* to be broadcast in Covent Garden's

piazza. Those who are accustomed to sweltering in the upper circles will be able to get their opera fix by standing outside exposed to the elements. Meanwhile, the nobles and their hangers on, and the business sponsors and their clients with their varying degrees of musical ignorance, will proceed themselves and mingle in the crush bar.

But never mind, this is all to the good. There is more than a decent chance that people to whom it would never have occurred to buy any sort of ticket to an opera will



Hitting the right notes: Pavarotti, Domingo, Dame Gwyneth Jones and Julia Migenes, in London this year

hear the music echoing through the piazza and will have their lives changed.

This is because an affinity with a real art form (by which I mean one which makes some genuine exploration of the human condition) touches people in ways that can transform their view of

themselves. Which is why the commandment of art as a passport to pseudo-aristocratic respectability is such a wicked thing. It debars people not only from social caché but, more importantly, from sensibility and from self-examination.

Riccardo Muti said this week that good music "inspires, frees, even creates conflict within the listener. Music means eternal growth." It follows that a life without good music is permanently stunted.

Suppose you have found your

way to classical music with the help of *Inspector Morse* or which ever saint decided that Luciano Pavarotti's recording of "Nessun Dorma" should be the television theme music of the World Cup. Where do you go from there? How do you find your way from the first glimmerings of interest to full blown participation? Perhaps by way of Covent Garden piazza or Harvey Goldsmith's production of *Tosca* at Earl's Court, which is being snuffily criticised by some of the guardians of tradition as a vulgar, spectacle in pursuit of profit.

But wait. Isn't the argument in favour of ever-increasing subsidy for opera that however popular it becomes, it still makes a loss? And since when has extrovert spectacle

been anathema to Italian opera? The great outdoor opera festivals in Italy draw huge numbers of families for a joyous day out. Ice cream sellers mingle among the unpretentious crowds whose familiarity with the music is taken for granted.

But perhaps the tide has turned in Britain, and a less priggish and solemn view of high culture is developing. The Royal Opera on the "itself" is getting in on the popularising act, with its December staging of *Turandot* at Wembley Arena, starring Julia Migenes.

It is not far-fetched to claim that a root cause of the British disease is that no form of cultural experience is shared by all the population. Thus the alienation and distrust between classes is total and unbridgeable. Impresarios who are prepared to step into the gulf are fighting the good fight. If they make a bit of money in the process, good luck to them.

Philip Howard

Eminently glad to be grey

I must be the only person left in London who has not been at a dinner party at which Mrs Thatcher has described her successor as prime minister as grey. But, whether the attribution is correct or not (and the tone of voice is spot on), it is an adjective that is commonly applied to Mr Major by those who wish him ill, together with the epithet "suit". These descriptions are intended to mean boring, unimaginative, conventional. I am not sure what the critics would rather he wore than a suit, which is what professional adult males wear most days. Clothes don't matter much. But I am not sure that I would fancy a prime minister in kaftan or jeans.

And grey is a much maligned colour. It is actually one of the most subtle and gentle of colours, if you think of the hundred shades of grey in the early Seurat before he went wonderfully spotty, or a Courbet like his *Burial at Ornans*, or Van Dyck in blacks and greys, or Whistler's portrait of his mother. Most of my top ten films are in black and white and all the eloquent varieties of grey, as in *La Grande Illusion*.

It is a modest, unassertive colour that steals over you without shouting. If you think, as sensible people do, that most schemes of political improvement are very laughable things, and that the less politicians do, the better, grey is a much more suitable colour for them than livid scarlet with smoke coming out of their ears and ranting cant about changing the world bellowing from their mouths. Let us have prime ministers about us who are grey, grey-headed women and men and such as sleep o' nights.

It is a tricky business working out how grey got its bad name. Our colour words have notoriously tangled and perverse histories. Grey descends from the Old English *græg*, which is one of a cluster of Teutonic grey words, perhaps ultimately cognate with the Latin for grey, *grævus*. Words derived from Old English forms ending in -æg can be spelled in two ways, though pronounced the same: viz. clay and whey. Dr Johnson and subsequent grey lexicographers recommended that we should spell the word "gray". We decided to ignore their advice.

and spell it grey. Americans, as often more traditionally correct, spell it gray.

Grey started its life in English as a pure colour word for the subtle colour of sea or sky, eyes, horses, or Franciscan friars. The first suggestions that grey is an undesirable colour are found in the 15th century, and refer to the cold light of twilight, or a day when the sun is overclouded. Byron has a powerful example of this meteorological use of grey as undesirable in "The Prisoner of Chillon": "For all was blank and bleak, and grey/It was not night — it was not day." The English, living in temperate climate, have always had soppy notions about blue skies. Whenever we get a run of them, we scream and run out of water.

It was not until this century that grey became a generalised insult for people. In the United States, blacks started to use grey as a cool epithet for white Caucasians, along with its rhyming synonyms *okay* and *lay*. For example, Eldridge Cleaver: "What about that gray girl in San Jose who had your nose wide open?"

But I think that our use of grey as an adjective to put down John Major comes more recently than that from our notorious slang factories at Oxford and Cambridge. Grey, a grey, or a grey man became a pejorative colloquialism for a dull, boring undergraduate at Oxbridge. The earliest examples of this use I can find come from Oxford in 1960.

It is primitive and sensationalist to suppose that grey is boring, and cruder colours more interesting. We all want as much grey matter as we can get, "the grey-coloured matter of which the active part of the brain is composed". The grey mare is traditionally the better horse. The best cats are grey, and all cats are grey in the dark. The original Grey Eminence was François Leclerc de Tremblay, alias Père Joseph, the Capuchin agent derived from Old English forms ending in -æg can be spelled in two ways, though pronounced the same: viz. clay and whey. Dr Johnson and subsequent grey lexicographers recommended that we should spell the word "gray". We decided to ignore their advice.

...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I feel a bit rough this morning. Nothing you could put your stethoscope on, just a vague sense that the finely-wrought instrument slumped in front of my typewriter is slightly out of kilter. There is a glimmering bead or two on its upper lip, a faint rustiness in its joints, a peculiar lack of lubricant in its eyes, the odd twang in its molars, an intermittent pulsing of this and that unidentified organ, a feeling that a couple of joints have had better days. Nothing serious at all, could be an oiled-up plug, a petrolman would say, possibly a corroded point, a bit of muck in the carburettor, a vapour-lock in the fuel line. It'll probably clear itself, these things generally do.

There have, of course, been many mornings like this since the summer of 1938, and between the temporal poles of grippewater and Phyllosan, one nostrum or another has generally been hit upon to sort things out: a stiff double of J. Collis Browne, an Optrex rinse, a TCP gargle, a couple of Aspro's sluiced down with a jigger of Night Nurse, and I was right as rain in a day or two. For this was in the days when rain was right, an observation I shall come back to in a minute.

I tell you all this only to show you that I am not a hypochondriac. Though neither classicist nor physiologist, I have enough lay smattering of both trades to know not only that the word derives from some old Greek quack's diagnosis that the source of melancholy lay in the components behind the ribs, but also

that he was wrong about it. Melancholy has many sources, but feeling low rarely means that your pancreas has fallen off. Therefore, on such occasions as I have been out of sorts, I have merely bitten some patent bullet and waited to get back into them.

I fear, however, that this time may be different. Indeed, it may be different because I fear. And it is no good saying that we have nothing to fear but fear itself, because fear itself is exactly what I fear. I may have embarked upon a vicious circle.

This morning, having hobbled from the rough night to the breakfast table, I noticed a down-column item in my local paper to the effect that concern had been expressed over the amount of pesticide applied to the neighbourhood's parks. Readers were enjoined to be on the *qui vive* for dogs throwing up, children breaking out in rashes, sick pigeons banging on their doors for a glass of water, and so forth. Now, normally, I should have given the story no second thought; even had I been feeling rough, I should not have attributed this to the deep lungfuls of gamma-BHC or Chlordane 25 gulped down on the daily constitutional which are so good for me. I have never succumbed to ecological scare-mongering.

Why this business of the Cricklewood greensward should have been the straw that made the camel start worrying about whether its back might have been broken, I shall never know. All I do know is that I began to

wonder not merely how you found out if it was pesticide which was making you feel rosy, but how you found out if it wasn't.

I looked at my egg. Though I could no longer remember whether it was listeria or salmonella that chickens laid, it suddenly struck me that one of them might have struck me. Either that, or the chicken could have eaten a worm on which acid rain had fallen, so that I was now quite literally under the weather. Indeed, it was also on the cards that the rain had reacted with the listeria already present in some recent egg, and God knew what that combination might do to a person who had been surlously through Clitterhouse Park with his nostrils open.

Especially given the possibility that the egg had been boiled in a saucepan not only made from aluminium, but regularly washed up in dodgy Thames water further polluted either by fall-out from Kuwaiti oil-fires or asbestos sheds demolished during Ceausescu's relocation programme, both of which could well be over Cricklewood by now.

Unless it had been an egg fried in an oxidised skillet, accompanied by a rasber of something that had recently been gobbled a troughload of post-Chernobyl hash, or by a haddock which had suddenly turned over on its back off Sellafeld before being driven to the fishmonger in a truck without a catalytic converter. Hypochondria? No, cosmophobia. And there's a lot of it about.

Untying the Gordian knot

Conor Cruise O'Brien asks what Peter Brooke really wants: a settlement in Northern Ireland or an excuse to withdraw?



way to deal with the IRA. The right way to deal with them, he said, is through the courts of law. There is not an IRA man in the country who does not heartily agree with that liberal sentiment.

The IRA likes the Brooke approach because it takes people's minds off more awkward topics, such as internment. I dislike his approach, for the same reason. But this does not mean that I wish the talks to fail. Since the talks have (more or less) started, I hope they will result in agreement. It is true that agreement would not hurt the IRA, but the terrorists would be actively helped if the talks ended in disagreement, by bringing to the fore their objective: British withdrawal from Northern Ireland.

The argument would be that heard over Palestine in 1947-48: "We have tried everything and nothing works. It is time for us to go." It is even possible that this argument would be heard from the lips of Peter Brooke himself after the final failure of his conspicuously patient diplomacy. After all, he introduced the analogy with Cyprus, shortly after taking office as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, seeming to imply that if agreement could not be reached between the parties, the alternative was British withdrawal.

Withdrawal would mean civil war, involving the whole of Ireland. Since I don't want that to happen, it follows that I want the talks to result in some kind of agreement. But how can agreement be achieved?

Some have suggested that it can be achieved by pressurising the Unionists to accept the undecoded nationalist agenda: cross-community devolved government, with the Anglo-Irish Agreement still in place and with no change in the Republic's constitutional *de jure* claim to the territory of Northern Ireland.

Nationalists would see this as movement in the direction of a United Ireland. So would Unionists, and nothing would induce them to move in that direction. If that kind of pressure is applied, the talks will fail, and fail under conditions that will suggest to Unionists that they have no future except in an independent Northern Ireland. The momentum in the direction of British with-

drawal, and civil war, would then increase.

However, the talks could be rescued, once they reach the substantial stage, not by applying pressure just on one side, but by a combination of pressures. Pressure should be brought to bear on the Dublin government to give up the territorial claim on Northern Ireland in Articles 2 and 3 of its constitution, and on the Unionists to accept the Anglo-Irish Agreement, and cross-community devolved government under it, once the Republic's territorial claim is dropped. On that basis — and that basis alone — a successful outcome to the Brooke talks is possible.

But does Mr Brooke actually want a breakthrough? I sometimes wonder whether all this elaborately patient diplomacy may not be being conducted in the spirit of Count Sforza's celebrated instructions to the Italian plenipotentiaries on the question of Italian colonies at the end of the second world war: "Fight to the end, but lose." Because then you can say: "We have tried everything."

We shall know by the outcome. If Mr Brooke really wants to win, he will squeeze Dublin on Articles 2 and 3 and then squeeze the Unionists, and the talks will succeed. If he wants to fail, he will squeeze the Unionists alone, and then blame them for failure. And British withdrawal will move up the agenda.

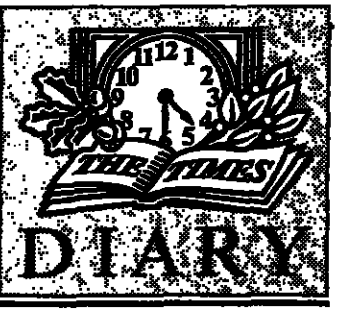
Strangers and brothers

There were double-takes at Westminster yesterday as John Major took the despatch box at question time. Could that be his double sitting up in the visitors' gallery? Near enough: it was older brother Terry paying his first visit to the Commons since Major became prime minister.

MPs were astonished at the likeness between the two men, and shoppers stopped to stare as Terry walked from Victoria station to the Commons dressed in the same sober style of navy blue suit sported by his brother. There are 11 years between the brothers, but they wear glasses in the same style and have similar heads of grey hair. But Terry insists that those in the know tell them apart easily. "There is a difference. I part my hair to the left. John, quite naturally, parts his to the right."

Terry organised the visit as a birthday treat for his wife Shirley, who was 53 on Wednesday. Norma Major made the arrangements. "We have never seen him in action as prime minister. I watch him whenever I can on television, but it's not the same as seeing your little brother standing there at the despatch box," he said with pride. But the prime minister had obviously not prepared them for the rough ride they witnessed.

"It's like a kindergarten. They all shout and wave their arms about. It's a job to know what anyone is talking about," Shirley said afterwards. "I had no idea they could get away with that sort of thing. You don't see that on the television," said Terry, complaining about the "juvenile gestures" of some MPs. He was confident that his brother could handle it, though: "He has always been a very capable young man," he said, sounding every inch the big brother.



The prime minister was too busy to see them after the visit, though the couple were expecting him to telephone them at home last night to find out if he had received the family seal of approval. But they will not be rushing back. As Terry said, "You get a better view in front of the television set with a cup of tea and plate of biscuits. And you can say what you really think of them all without anyone hearing."

● The BBC monitoring unit at Caversham built up a formidable reputation for knowledge of the Arab world during the Gulf war, but closer to home the unit's geography is a little shakier. An Irish job-hunter has just been sent an application form addressed "Bel-fast, Eire". Perhaps Peter Brooke's talks are making more progress than we realised.

Nglish Issns

After eight years' work Christopher Upward, lecturer in Birmingham's Aston University, is about to publish a new version of English. Called *Cut Spelling*, it removes what he terms "redundant" letters in such words as *gnaw*, *dumb* and *debt*. It also eliminates double consonants and unstressed vowel letters before l, n, a and r. "My system removes more than 10 per cent of letters, and makes it easier for children and foreigners

to learn the language," he says. "It would also change the whole culture of writing and printing." Upward believes that the development of the English language, with letters naturally becoming redundant, halted after the publication of Johnson's *Dictionary*. "At the time of Shakespeare, new spellings were evolving all the time."

His proposals will be published later this summer, and will be studied by the National Curriculum Council and its American and



Australian equivalents. "I have been in touch with the education department about the system, but they are more concerned with improving spelling under the current system," he says. "Perhaps after 400 years they should try another way."

Table d'hôte

While Westminster Cathedral reverberated yesterday to the pomp and solemnity of a requiem mass for Graham Greene, a quieter but no less respectful note was struck in Greene's memory at the bar of Chez Felix au Port, his favourite Antibes restaurant. Monsieur Felix, his son Denis and their cook raised a glass to their most devoted customer, who lunched regularly at the restaurant for more than 30 years. "That is what

he would have wanted us to do, our thoughts were with him," says the proprietor, who developed a fiercely protective attitude to his most famous customer, constantly warding off tourists who came to stare. The occasional devotee still drops by to see where the great man sat, and M Felix says they are guaranteed a hospitable welcome.

● Three venerable dancing dames stepped into the shoes of the Princess of Wales at the opening of new premises for the Benesh Institute of Choreology in Marylebone on Wednesday. With the Princess unable to attend, because she was collecting Prince William from hospital, Dame Ninette de Valois, on the eve of her 93rd birthday, 80-year-old Dame Alicia Markova and Dame Beryl Grey, a mere 64 this month, offered instead their own glowing tributes to the school's role in the transformation of ballet through the system of notation invented by its founder in the Fifties, which for the first time allowed a three-dimensional representation of dance steps.

Site unseen

When the dust settles after the Berlaymont building in Brussels comes tumbling down, will the first man on the site be Sir Norman Foster? He is being tipped as the architect most likely to be engaged to build a replacement quarters for the European Commission. Foster's practice is understood to have carried out a feasibility study for the Belgian government, which will oversee the £500 million project. "No comment at the moment" is the response from the office of the man whose latest temple to modernism is the new Stansted airport terminal, and whose style was once described by the contemporary classicist Quinlan Terry as engineering rather than architecture. He should suit M Delors and his Eurocrats perfectly.



CALLING ISRAEL'S BLUFF

The White House claims it can now detect a glimmer of hope in the Middle East. James Baker, the American secretary of state, is preparing a fifth visit to the region in the space of two months. Much depends on the response to letters President Bush sent the five likely participants in a regional peace conference. The Americans are looking for clear signs of flexibility, especially from Israel and Syria. Both are still looking for excuses for non-attendance. As long as this is the case, all such optimism is false.

The Syrians are still holding out for a United Nations presence at any talks. The initial welcome to European participation by David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, was dashed by the obduracy of Yitzhak Shamir, his prime minister. Mr Baker would do better to stay at home. The West really should ponder what use is served by dancing attendance on leaders who plainly find its mediation merely an excuse for prevarication and intransigence.

Mr Baker does not relish his trips to the Middle East. On each occasion he has been thwarted, humiliated and deceived. Frustration is written all over his face. He goes from a sense of duty, believing that only the United States, supplying Israel with arms and huge amounts of money, has the political and moral authority to broker a settlement. He goes also because the West gave a commitment to its Gulf Arab allies that after the liberation of Kuwait it would try once again to solve this intractable conflict. And he goes because he feels that the dangers of another Arab-Israeli conflict, even if not exacerbated by superpower rivalry, are greater than the risks of doing nothing.

On each trip, Israel's government has given the clearest sign that it does not want the solution Mr Baker is trying to arrange. It has announced new settlements during his visit. It has expelled and imprisoned prominent Palestinians. Over the past three days it has rained bombs down on

Palestinian targets in southern Lebanon to undermine the recent agreement between Syria and Lebanon and provoke Syria into backing away from peace talks. Mr Shamir has never made any secret of his rejection of any trading of occupied land for peace.

A natural response from a benefactor would be to get tough. Washington's supine reaction reflects a lack of political will to confront Israeli intransigence. There are reasons for this. Public opinion in the United States remains emotionally committed to Israel. It is not only the clout of the Jewish lobby that determines congressional votes; evangelical Christians are equally fervent supporters of Israel. Anti-Arab sentiment fuelled by terrorist atrocities is widespread.

Washington also knows that external pressure rallies a small state to hardline policies. The greater and more public the American pressure, the more Israel's reformists are weakened. The United States has often trumpeted its close military and political engagement in Israel, with new weapons flowing to Tel Aviv even as it tries to enforce disarmament in the region. To turn decisively against Israel in the United Nations would be seen as a volte-face that would undermine the confidence of America's other allies.

Yet the time has surely come when the Americans must either enforce their authority or give up the increasingly meaningless "peace" shuffles. Mr Baker should say that unless the governments of the region are ready now to sit down and talk to each other, he can no longer help them. He might usefully indicate that American aid to Israel, now running at \$3 billion a year and including direct cash help which has done so much to fuel Israel's inflation, could be reduced so that more could go to other poorer countries. Unless the will for peace can be ignited within Israel as well as within its Arab neighbours Mr Baker is just wasting his time and undermining his credibility.

CRIMINAL NONSENSE

The first glimpse of sanity on crime figures at this week's conference of chief police officers was wiped out yesterday by the Metropolitan police. Its quarterly statistics on crime in London were a farrago of alarmist nonsense. All credit to the chief constable of Gloucestershire, Albert Pacey, for telling his colleagues to limit publicity to "reported crime" and confine future figures to non-trivial offences. Existing statistics, he pointed out on Wednesday, were no indicator of the crime rate nor of police performance in clearing it up. They provoked public fear to no obvious public benefit.

The Met was not listening. Despite the caveats with which the Home Office now tries to clothe its statistical shame, the Met blithely claimed yesterday that notifiable offences in London had risen by 11 per cent over the same period last year. This figure embraces every act of lawbreaking from car-radio theft, cannabis smoking and homosexuality in public lavatories to mugging and murder. Since the figure only includes crimes known to the police — which research has shown to be a minority of crime — rises or falls are wholly dependent on reporting practice. Because this depends on police strength and accessibility, reported crime tends to rise with police numbers.

Many aspects of the Met's figures show their inadequacy. Only 4 per cent of the 852,700 offences were crimes of violence. Yet these are far more likely to be reported than trivial crimes, so there can be no parallel between changes in the two categories. The publicising of an overall total merely raises public alarm in what is an increasingly crude bid for more public money. As Douglas Hurd pointed out when home secretary, such abuse of crime figures will lead the public to start questioning police performance — which will be no help

to the police. Rather late, the chief police officers have begun to wake up to perils of this public backlash.

The reported rape total, says the Met, is up by 13 per cent. But two out of three rape victims apparently know their attacker, and reporting practice is bound to be strongly conditioned by the victim's expectation of a sympathetic police hearing. The reported rape figure is therefore no indication of the prevalence of sex crime, only of the Met's reputation among women for believing them. Yet the rape total is still lumped in with other sex crimes, themselves mostly a reflection of police decisions to raid public lavatories in search of homosexuals.

Whatever the trend in actual crime — shown by the (non-police) British crime survey to be only mildly upward — these figures are a hopeless index of public morality or social order. "Crime" changes each year, as law and personal behaviour changes. Owning a dangerous dog in Britain will shortly be an offence. If enforced, it will yet further increase the "crime wave". So too does the treatment as criminal of narcotics now widely used by immigrants and the young. The "crime" of cannabis use is probably as common as that of drunk driving, though each appear in the police figures only to the extent the police decide to enforce such laws.

What happens in the incident rooms of British police stations has its fascination for social historians and sensation-hungry newspapers. It has undoubtedly been useful in recent years in getting the police more pay and resources. But the public should not be seduced into generalising about the state of the community from so small a glimpse through so partial a keyhole. The home secretary should have the courage to cut these phoney figures down to size.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Treasury forecasting has become a City joke. In the middle of the recession that was never-to-be, and halfway through the recovery that has yet-to-come, the Chancellor has asked his statisticians to come up with a better way of tracking the progress of the economy. Most of all, he wants to be able to spot an upturn as soon as possible. So do his cabinet colleagues, so does his party and so does the nation.

The Central Statistical Office has suggested several rather boring measurements: telephone traffic, electricity use, petrol and derv sales, and even the purchase of British Rail tickets. But where has Norman Lamont been these last few months? Recession may not have eaten into his own income — though a bill for performance-related pay for Chancellors would go through Parliament in an afternoon — but nobody who rubs shoulders with the citizenry of Britain needs to ask the statistical office.

When the economy starts to move into recession people cut down on their extravagances long before they remember to turn off every light switch, telephone great aunts at cheap rate or ask themselves whether their journey is really necessary. So when the economy recovers it will show first in far more eccentric indicators. Mr Lamont's officials should be monitoring adventure holidays, pink champagne sales, bookies' receipts, membership of health clubs and the availability of tables at Le Gavroche.

To assess boardroom confidence, he should count executives flying economy class and monitor the rate at which company cars are pressed into extra years of service. Yesterday's figures showed new car sales in May down by 31 per cent. In the past, new

cars were mostly company cars: now executive parking spaces are gradually filling up with company bangers.

Or perhaps Mr Lamont should send out an army of investigators, trained to detect post-recessional behaviour as power shifts from the seller to the buyer. Inspectors in Bond Street, noting the number of mid-season sales, could monitor the politeness of the assistants in clothes shops. When these normally aloof ladies condescend to smile, times are indeed bad. As long as they compliment the inspectors on their clothes, the recession is dire. But just a hint of a supercilious sneer could herald an upturn.

In the housing market, sellers exhibit a nauseating cockiness in boom times, happy to let one buyer gazump another. As prices fall, buyers take revenge by bargaining down the price, and then knocking off another £5,000 at the last moment. When the seller is no longer intimidated by that last twist, the housing market has really bottomed out, and Mr Lamont must be told the good news.

Train conversation is the lead indicator as the state of the economy changes, more sophisticated by far than the Treasury computer. People are always happier boozing than cheering, so who is the next to whinge? Bailiffs, liquidators, accountants and car repossessioners have been curiously content this past year. So too have been British campsite operators and boarding house owners: when their customers head abroad again, they will have little to do but grumble. In the crowd shouting for relief from pain, Mr Lamont's statistical snoopers will know the recession is nearly over when they first detect a still, small voice, against the trend, pleading: more, more!

Case for phased injury awards

From Mr Graeme Williams, QC, and Mr David Richardson

Sir, The phased award of £8.9 million to Heidi Everett, a teenage girl who suffered brain damage as the result of a road crash (report, June 5), draws attention to the value of the structured settlement as a means for paying compensation to those who have been permanently disabled in accidents.

These structured settlements are relatively new to this country. They are the result of sensible co-operation between the Inland Revenue and the Association of British Insurers. They provide a tax-efficient route to a guaranteed regular payment over the life of the disabled person, with a reasonable degree of inflation-proofing. They have great advantages over the traditional once-for-all "lump sum" awards which, even when carefully administered, may not support a disabled person over a long life.

But a serious practical drawback remains. The court has no power to award structured compensation such a settlement is possible only with the consent of the particular insurer. Some insurers have remained outside the door which their association has opened, and will not consent to a structured settlement at all.

Moreover, it is not unknown for an insurer to require a financial "disclaimer" for a structured settlement far beyond what can reasonably be justified. In consequence it is a matter of chance whether a particular claimant is in a position to receive a structured settlement. Many deserving cases are not.

Disabled people — and those who care for them with great devotion — deserve better than this from the insurance industry and the law. It is time for the insurance industry to agree that all long-term disabled people who are entitled to compensation will be eligible for a structured settlement. Otherwise there will be a compelling case for legislation.

Yours sincerely,
GRAEME WILLIAMS,
DAVID RICHARDSON,
13 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, E.C.A.
June 5.

Secrecy on the pill

From the General Secretary of the Brook Advisory Centres

Sir, Brook Advisory Centres provides a contraceptive and counselling service for young people entirely within the law, contrary to Victoria Gillick's allegations (June 3).

When Victoria Gillick finally lost her case in 1985 (Gillick v DHSS) the law lords' judgment clearly entrusted the medical profession with the discretionary powers of whether or not to prescribe contraception to young people under the age of 16 without their parents' consent.

In answer to the question of whether an under-16-year-old could consent to medical treatment Lord Scarman said that they may, providing they have "sufficient understanding and intelligence to enable him or her to understand fully what is proposed".

Confidentiality is of paramount importance to young people and concerns over a possible breach of confidentiality prevents many teenagers from seeking contraceptive help.

For 27 years Brook Advisory Centres has been working to help young people develop caring and responsible sexual relationships. The tragedy of the case of the 12-year-old girl in Hillingdon lies in the continuing failure of society to provide adequate sex education to prevent unwanted pregnancies or services where she and others like her feel confident to seek help.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET JONES,
General Secretary,
Brook Advisory Centres,
153a East Street, SE17.
June 3.

Nautology?

From Mr Roy Ward

Sir, "Astronaut" and "cosmonaut" mean the same thing: a person trained for space flight. The former term is preferred by the Americans, the latter by the Soviets. So, to answer James Reynolds's question (letter, May 30), either term is correct when used of Helen Sharman. However, since she flew in a Soviet spacecraft, and since they apply the term to everyone who flies in one of their craft, the latter is probably more correct.

Since cosmonaut means "traveller in the universe", while "astronaut" means "star traveller", the former is arguably the better term; spacemen and women undoubtedly travel in the universe, but none have yet gone any significant distance towards the stars.

Yours faithfully,
RAY WARD (Fellow,
British Interplanetary Society),
7 Saunders Road, Sheffield 2.

From Mr Bryan Martin

Sir, Space voyagers have made little progress towards the stars and even less on the cosmic scale. Are they not mere "planets"?

Yours sincerely,
BRYAN MARTIN,
Kintail, Snape Bridge,
Saxmundham, Suffolk.

From Emma Parkes
Sir, Helen Sharman is a star but I still think she is a cosmonaut.
Yours sincerely,
EMMA PARKES (aged 7),
Lovelace Farm, Southleigh,
Colyton, Devon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Facts and fallacies of 'pax Americana' Constitution and the people's will

From Mr R. N. G. Blower

Sir, It is said that you should give space (May 29) to a review of a book, *The Coming War with Japan* by George Friedman and Meredith LeBar, which appears to be written by, and caters to, the fantasists in Washington. Its central thesis, that the US and Japan will come to blows because of differing strategic and trade interests, is fatally flawed. Japan will only need to defend its trade routes if the US is intent on cutting them. Why the US would wish to do something which would be contrary to international law and would invite the rest of the world to unite against it for doing so is not explained and is, in any case, probably incapable of rational explanation.

More seriously, however, the feelings behind the book give one concern about the trade imperatives of local power politics — bashing the Japanese and latterly the Koreans (not to mention Airbus Industries) — that might lead those with influence to the conclusion that the US will need to seek a "pax Americana", using its undoubted military strength to open markets to its goods and services.

This should not be allowed to happen. The US has, since the second world war, used its political influence to open world markets and is currently doing much to get the EC consumer and taxpayer a better deal by opening up agricultural markets. By allowing the US to make the running in trade negotiations, the EC and Japan have inadvertently fuelled protectionist pressures, thereby making the "free-traders" feel alone in wanting open markets and thus giving the fantasists the chance to air their outlandish theories.

The US has given us all a second chance by extending the President's

authority to negotiate on the basis of the so-called "fast-track" (report, May 25). The EC, and particularly Japan, now need to repay that favour by taking a much more active role in the Uruguay Round, so that a genuine opening in the world trading system is achieved.

While a deal on agriculture may not directly benefit the farmers, a broader market-opening package will benefit all consumers (a category which incidentally includes farmers). In the long run, the only losers I can think of will be the fantasists who write, and would read, books of this sort.

Yours faithfully,
BOB BLOWER,
18 Marjorie Grove, SW11,
May 29.

From Mr Michael A. Mudie

Sir, Mr Shintaro Ishihara, in *The Japan That Can Definitely Say No!* (report, May 28), asserts that "if Japan had not gone to war the modern world would still be under the control of white colonialists". Such an assertion is no more valid than the Lockhart bomber claiming credit for increased airport security.

Messrs Friedman and LeBar, in *The Coming War with Japan*, seem to argue on more reasoned lines, but in fact they come to a more devastating conclusion. It is depressing to think that history is always repeated and that if there is no major world conflict to focus on someone somewhere has to promote one.

If indeed America and Japan are on some sort of collision course, where does that put a united Europe?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MUDIE,
Hill House, Pancake Hill,
Chedworth, Gloucestershire,
May 30.

Loss of US Institute

From the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Institute of United States Studies

Sir, Ronald Butt's article, "Uncle Sam downgraded" (May 27), is an accurate and timely warning of the imminent demise, at least in its present form, of the Institute of United States Studies.

Politics, as Nyn Bevan once remarked, is the language of priorities; and the promotion of American studies is not, to judge by their allocation of funds, a high priority for the University of London. As a consequence, the IUSS is dying the death of a thousand cuts and has about a year to live.

Thereafter, the institute, which has an acknowledged international reputation and a nation-wide role, will cease to exist: its identity gone,

its staff retired, its books dispersed, its premises taken over. That may well suit the University of London; in any case it is the best judge of its own interest. It is not, in my view, in the national interest.

So what do we do to be saved? Mr Butt suggests that the Thatcher Foundation might ride to the rescue. A good idea. Or what about a Branson Institute for United States Studies? Or a Lloyd Webber Centre for the Study of American Civilisation? Attached, of course, to a welcoming, degree-giving university. Immortality would be more or less guaranteed.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER WRIGHT (Chairman,
Advisory Committee, Institute of
United States Studies),
Burstow Hall,
Horley, Surrey,
May 30.

Blacks at the Bar

From Mr Edmund M. Alexander

Sir, The Bar Council's "radical" policy suggesting that every set of chambers should try to recruit 5 per cent of its barristers from ethnic minorities (report, May 20; letters, May 25) carries a serious danger that all chambers will eventually become white and black and white-dominated, with perhaps a handful of blacks in some sets to represent the "integrated" nature of the profession.

Competence would continue to be perceived as being within the exclusive domain of the white Bar, with these blacks fortunate enough to have been accepted in white chambers remaining counsel of last resort.

The current emphasis on market forces, and the obsession with reducing the costs of legal services, have resulted in a significant reduction in work for junior barristers — white and black alike — and makes the plight of such barristers especially grim. So far as the more senior blacks are concerned, only the extremely robust solicitor would readily consider briefing him/her in any case of importance or significance.

Competence and reputation at the Bar are acquired through exposure to work of good quality. Without

such exposure the plight of more senior black barristers is doomed, irrespective of the set of chambers in which they find themselves.

Yours faithfully,
EDMOND M. ALEXANDER,
59 Fleet Street, E.C.A.
May 29.

From the Chairman of the Chancery Bar Association

Sir, Your correspondents of May 25, and the writer of the headline to their letters, have misunderstood the Bar Council's target of at least 5 per cent from ethnic minorities in each set of barristers' chambers. It is not a "quota", as you call it, but a guideline, a target to aim at, an aspiration — and one that I hope all barristers share.

It does not require any lowering of standards or positive discrimination, or I would not have voted for it. It does urge us to seek out recruits from the ethnic minorities who are up to our high standards. That will be slow and laborious, but it is simple fair play and common decency, and it will strengthen our chambers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MOWBRAY, Chairman,
Chancery Bar Association,
12 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
June 3.

Bank 'rapacity'

From Mr Philip Monbiot

Sir, In your leader, "Defying gravity" (May 27), you say that banks "screw small businesses" and that they demonstrate a rapacity that would make Shylock blush. And this because the banks have not reduced interest rates to small borrowers in line with their cost of funds.

You do not suggest that the banks operate a cartel to fix rates to small borrowers. Indeed, you point out that "each competes to advertise its services to small firms" and that they "could hardly be more sedulous in seeking their custom".

Thus a small firm, having been seduced into borrowing from a bank, but thereafter finding the

service of that bank too expensive, can seek the services of other banks. If, having done the rounds, the borrower finds the cost still too high, it is because lenders can find something better to do with their money at the price.

If you deny the banks the right to allocate their resources according to their best judgment, they will be in an even sorer state than they are already. Their judgment has, of course, often been appalling; but even more appalling would be the socialised credit system which is the only alternative.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP MONBIOT,
Little Aston Mill,
Upper Slaughter,
Gloucestershire.

Transport policies

From Mr Charlie Kronick

Sir, Whilst *The Times's* headline (May 29) made the charitable assertion that "Rifkind tackles road congestion", the new government policy has led to unanswered questions of how solutions to Britain's transport crisis will be achieved in practice.

Despite proposing a shift in emphasis to the transportation of freight by rail, the secretary of state's speech on Tuesday also served to reiterate the government's commitment to a £17 billion road-building scheme.

In doing so, Mr Rifkind would appear to be voicing a contradiction

in interests. If the government wants to reduce congestion on the roads and the pollution it causes, a reversal in the growth of road transport is clearly the first step to be taken. Until this matter is addressed, both the travelling public and the environment will continue to pay the costs of the government's blinkered transport policy.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLIE KRONICK,
(Transport campaigner),
Grecnpeace,
Canonbury Villas, N1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

From Sir John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, Professor Haseler (May 29) has got it all wrong about the wish for radical constitutional change. I have never received a letter on the subject from any of my constituents. Mr Benn's bill, to which he refers, was generally considered a joke by those few who had ever heard of it.

Our constitution is not "ancient régime", as the professor calls it. Power lies with the prime minister, the cabinet and ultimately the House of Commons, although we have the forces of a monarchy and a House of Lords, but these are extremely popular institutions and give the people a sense of continuity and stability which is the envy of other countries.

It may be that academics (like the professor), think-tanks and journalists, as he says, want constitutional changes; but ordinary citizens, who are generally far more sensible than the other categories of people he mentions, do not.

As for the Church of England, I have not found much desire for disestablishment, either in the Commons or in the General Synod, and certainly not by the man in the pew.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
House of Commons,
May 30.

Wilson recants

From Mr R. S. Rowntree

Sir, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien ("If it's good to be godless, why do they kill?", May 30) is right to deal consistently with Mr A. N. Wilson's peripatetic temporary re-conversion to atheism; for Mr Wilson is an intense and restless seer, perhaps especially vulnerable to the pain of current events. Both are surely right with regard to the need to revoke the blasphemous laws in this country, for no true religion of whatever faith can be other than harmed by claiming for itself the protection of law.

Most human beings believe in the existence in the universe of supernatural power of some kind. Its source is mystery, yet its presence — whether recognised or not — is vital to the solution of the social, political and economic crisis which threatens to engulf us all. For, in Professor Hans King's words, insight (*Global Responsibility. In Search of a New World Ethic*), "only the bond to an infinite offers freedom in the face of all that is finite".

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,
Kingthorpe House,
Pickering, North Yorkshire,
May 30.

From Mr Christopher D. Bantick

Sir, Clifford Longley's discussion of A. N. Wilson's recanting of religion ("When faith dies, can the muse really flourish?", May 25) was measured and fair. However, I cannot accept the idea that "twentieth-century English literature's principal encounter with religion has been through the so-called Catholic novel".

Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* and D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* both deal with, among other things, the struggles of their protagonists with Anglicanism.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER D. BANTICK,
13 Greenwood Close,
Bushey Heath,
Watford, Hertfordshire.

Battle of Jutland

From Lord Molson

Sir, The judgment in your leading article of June 1 that the Battle of Jutland was not won by Britain but was lost by Germany was anticipated in Winston Churchill's pithy comment that Admiral Jellicoe was the only man on either side who could have lost the first world war in one afternoon.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MOLSON,
House of Lords.

No more Norrington?

From Mr D. L. Goodhart

Sir, It is encouraging to read that Oxford University "is trying to kill" the Norrington Table (report, June 3) in the belief that it creates "unfair competition between colleges".

The Oxbridge Reject Society, to which all those who have failed Oxbridge entrance automatically belong, was founded to promote awareness of the unhappy consequences caused by competition and the pursuit of excellence. I am glad to see that the society's persistent lobbying has won over so much of Oxford's academic community.

It is also to be hoped that the suppression of the table will now lead candidates to apply, inadvertently, to colleges that are academically unsuitable, resulting in a significant increase in the size of our membership.

Yours faithfully,
DAN GOODHART
(Membership Secretary),
The Oxbridge Reject Society,
PO Box 1668, London W8 7NJ.
June 3.

Low pressure

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, I haven't heard anything about the greenhouse effect recently. Is it something to do with the weather?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.
June 3.

BBC 1

6.00 Ceebeak
6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club 9.30 Travel Show
9.45 Gullies: Alan and Matthew Collins with a critical appraisal of Florida's Gullies
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 The Hogan Family: American comedy/drama series (r)
10.50 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the first session of the second day's play at Headingley in the match between England and the West Indies. Includes news and weather at 10.55 and 12.00. 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather 1.30 Neighbours (Ceebeak)
1.50 Cricket: First Test. Further coverage from Headingley. Continues on BBC2
2.20 Up the Down Escalator. When Glyn Worsley fell prey to a rare brain disease, it was not only his career as actor, writer and broadcaster that bore the brunt of his diminishing speech and movement powers, but his family as well
2.45 Peaseblossom. Zoo drama, starring Lindsey Wagner. Rebecca is made an offer by a former employer and benefactor, and led across a dilemma over the treatment of an ageing elephant (r) 3.30 Cartoons
3.40 Lifetime. Cliff Michelson and Lynette Litgow bring the latest news from the charity and fund-raising world, and there is an appeal on behalf of the Winged Fellowship Trust (r)
3.50 Quick Draw McGraw. Cartoon (r) 4.00 A Bear Behind 4.10 Smoggy (r) 4.35 The Legend of Tim Tyler: The Boy Who Lost His Laugh. Children's adventure series from Germany (r)
5.00 Newsround 5.10 The Girl from Tomorrow. Drama series about a girl from the year 3000 (Ceebeak)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceebeak). Northern Ireland: Sportsworld 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines. Northern Ireland: News
7.00 Wogan with Joanna Lumley. Tonight's show is devoted to the divine Bette Midler
7.30 Joint Account. Weak role-reversal sitcom starring Hannah Gordon as bank manager Belinda Smith and Peter Egan as David, her stay-at-home husband. (Ceebeak)
8.00 Fast Friends. Quiz show hosted by Les Dawson (Ceebeak)
8.30 Keeping Up Appearances. Roy Clarke's one-joke sitcom starring the excellent Patricia Routledge as a suburban social-climber. Patricia's ability to stay cool, calm and collected is tested to its limits when her commitment to the charity shop is overshadowed by difficulties on the home front (r). (Ceebeak)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceebeak) Regional news and weather



True story: Alan David Lee, centre, Dennis Miller, right (8.30pm)

9.30 The Cowra Breakout.
● CHOICE: Philip Noyce, who made the well-regarded cinema film, *Newsfront*, directed this blockbuster series about an attempted mass escape from an Australian prison camp during the second world war. The prisoners were more than 1,000 Japanese. Most of them went straight over the barbed wire into Australian bullets. A nine-day manhunt rounded up the rest. It was the largest prison break in history and the only land battle fought on Australian soil in two world wars. The *Cowra Breakout* dramatises this true story by focusing on two young soldiers, one Australian and the other Japanese, who first meet in the jungles of New Guinea. It promises to be a superior offering to the ludicrous cricket drama, *Bodyline*, which came from the same production team, although five feature-length episodes may be too many to fill convincingly. (Ceebeak)
11.20 Film: The Night They Took Miss Beautiful (1977). Television movie about a gang of terrorist hijackers holding five national beauty queens to ransom with a demand of \$1 million from each country they represent. Also on board is a government agent carrying a cargo of mutant germs. As stiff as it sounds and not half as entertaining as it should be. Starring Chuck Connors, Victoria Principal, Sherie North and Phil Silvers. Directed by Robert Michael Lewis (Ceebeak)
12.55am Weather

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 The Muppet Show 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 7.00-7.25 The 10.40-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.40-11.55 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 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5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 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3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.25 The 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.25 The 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.25 The 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 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4.00-4.25 The 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.25 The 5.55-6.00 News 6.00-6.25 The 6.55-7.00 News 7.00-7.25 The 7.55-8.00 News 8.00-8.25 The 8.55-9.00 News 9.00-9.25 The 9.55-10.00 News 10.00-10.25 The 10.55-11.00 News 11.00-11.25 The 11.55-12.00 News 12.00-12.25 The

Crew's struggle caught on jet transcript

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A CHILLING cockpit transcript of the minutes before last month's Lauda Air crash in Thailand gives details of the fight by the pilot and co-pilot to interpret warning signals related to a reversal in jet engine thrust.

The transcript of the cockpit voice recorder of the Boeing 767, was released yesterday by Thai investigators.

Niki Lauda, the airline's owner, said yesterday that he did not believe that the crash was caused by one engine suddenly going into reverse.

However, yesterday he said he had received a telex from Boeing, the plane's manufacturer, confirming that both the plane's engines had been

found and the left one was locked in reverse.

The jet crashed some 160 kilometres (100 miles) north-west of Bangkok, minutes after taking off from the Thai capital for Vienna. Ten crew and 213 passengers were on the flight, making it the 12th worst crash in commercial aviation history. The conversation is between American pilot Thomas Welch and his Austrian co-pilot, Josef Thurner. The time indicates minutes and seconds after 11pm local time (0400 GMT).

The transcript includes the sound of warning sirens and ends with the words "damn it" and a loud bang.

21:21 co-pilot: (Expletive deleted.)
21:24 pilot: That keeps... that's come on.
22:20 co-pilot: So we passed transition altitude one zero one three.
22:30 pilot: What's it say in there about that... just ah.
24:03 co-pilot: Additional system failure may cause in-flight deployment except normal reversal operation after landing. (Lauda has quoted this passage as: "Additional system failure may cause an in-flight deployment. Expect normal reverse operation after landing.")
24:11 pilot: OK.
24:12 pilot: Just, ah, let's see.
24:36 pilot: OK.
25:19 co-pilot: Shall I ask the ground staff?
25:22 pilot: What's that?
25:23 co-pilot: Shall I ask the technical men?
25:26 pilot: Ah, you can tell 'em about it just it's it's just ah no, ah it's probably moisture or something cause it's not, it's not just on it's coming on and off.
25:39 co-pilot: Yeah.

25:40 pilot: But, ah, you know it's - it doesn't really it's just an advisory thing I don't ah.
25:55 pilot: Could be some moisture in there.
26:03 co-pilot: Think you need a little bit rudder trim to the left, huh?
26:06 pilot: What's that?
26:08 co-pilot: You need a little bit of rudder trim to the left.
26:10 pilot: OK.
26:12 pilot: OK.
30:09 Sound of tape splice.
30:27 co-pilot: Ah, reverse's deployed.
30:29 Sound of snap.
30:41 pilot: Jesus Christ.
30:44 Sound of four caution tones.
30:47 Sound of siren warning.
30:48 Sound of siren warning stops.
30:53 pilot: Sound of warning starts and continues until end of recording.
30:58 pilot: Wait a minute.
31:05 Damn it.
31:06 Sound of bang.

Political sketch

Bonnie and Clyde pray for silence

MPs began yesterday by contemplating removing our "right" to silence. An *Anglo-American* to silence was what their shocked audience would be praying for: for MPs, not us. We began with the routine babble from the usual rabble. Ron Brown (Lab, Leith) defended poll-tax dodgers as "political prisoners", and John Patten replied. This home office minister, who styles his hair into a fortified beehive, was described by Craig Brown as having the expression of an outraged hairdresser. Patten wears moral horror as others wear a permanent wave, and shook his carefully coiffed hair in carefully coiffed indignation, coining hopeful little catchphrases like "can pay, should pay", repeating four times lest its brilliance go unnoticed.

But he improved. To his Labour shadow, Barry Sheerman, the minister (enduring a barrage of noisy protest which bounced harmlessly off his hair, for there is basalt beneath the balsam) replied: "The hon gentleman is capable of joined-up shouting, but not yet of joined-up argument".

Though there were four ministers on the bench, Mr Patten seemed to take every second question. Replying that too many householders leave their houses open, inviting villains, he prompted the thought that too many backbenchers leave their questions open, inviting John Patten.

Doubtless the home office is on the side of the law, but the appearance of its front bench team gives the opposite impression. Thin Mrs Angela Rumbold, hair of pale copper, sits beside Patten, her mood of flinty anxiety complementing his bland mien. The couple resemble an ageing Bonnie and Clyde. Beside them, the pained, shambling presence of Peter Lloyd calls to mind the bursar of a troubled minor prep school. Kenneth

Baker presides, a sort of elderly Raffles. Here is a whole bench which should be helping the police with their enquiries.

But the police themselves did not emerge unscathed from home office questions, yesterday. The Opposition charged that there had been a "dreadful" increase in crime (27 per cent in W Yorkshire, said Pontefract's Geoffrey Lofthouse). The government replied that there had been an increase of 27,000 in police numbers and a 52 per cent increase in expenditure.

Each side thought its claim a rebuttal of the opposing one. That both sides were right, and that it was the police who should be helping us with our enquiries, was an unvoiced thought.

An exchange on the right to silence reminded us that this right is not especially cherished by MPs. Not that they are unsympathetic, but a politician would simply be baffled by the mentality of one who, offered a chance to speak, chose silence... as PM's questions proved.

The session had been going well for Mr Major. Neil Kinnock reduced to shouting "Oh yes!" and putting underlined bits from torn off newspaper pages into envelopes and handing them to messengers - until the last question, from Labour's Andrew Bannister. He asked the PM how it was that his hated minimum wage worked so well in Germany. Major's attempted reply was that Germany's economy lacked the problems of Britain's, which were of more than 25 years' standing.

He should have re-cast the sentence, putting "twenty five years" first. As it was, he was ambushed before reaching it. The Commons is a rough place and Labour's howl of mockery fair enough. But the scale and duration of it, gaging Mr Major, was odious.

MATTHEW PARRIS

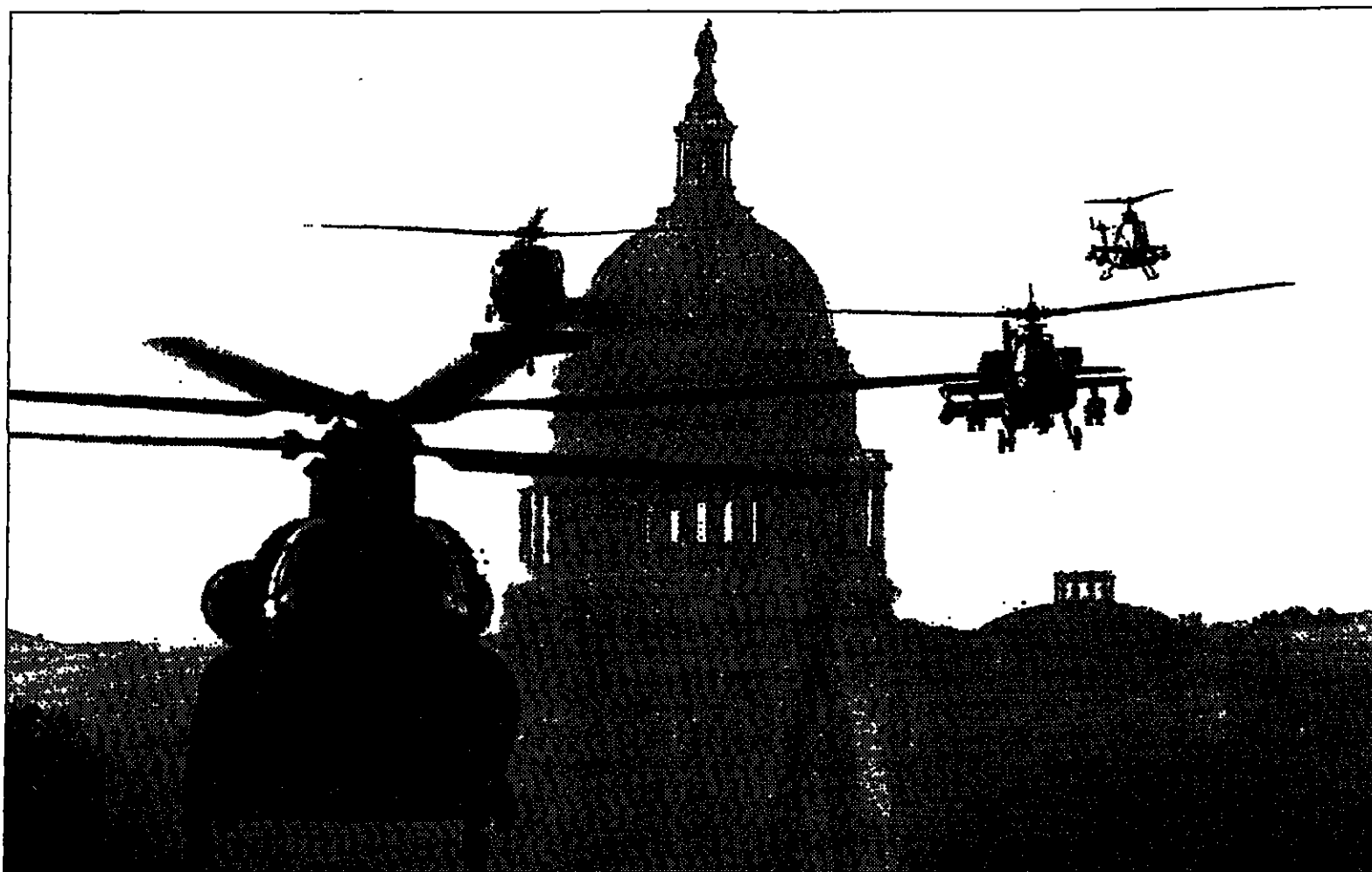
Kremlin is possible site for library

Continued from page 1

"What would Stavropol want with a library? This is not Gorbachev's library, it is the President's Library." If, as seems likely, the President's Library is to be established in Moscow the question is whether he will choose a greenfield site or redesignate a building in the centre, perhaps in the Kremlin itself. The Soviet government has recently been moved out of the Kremlin into a former ministerial building in the city centre, and it is possible that the ancient fortress of the Kremlin, with its churches and palaces, could eventually lose its political role and become a ceremonial museum and cultural centre. All that Mr Gorbachev has ever said about cultural value and openness suggests that such a library should be genuinely public and that what he has in mind is nothing less than the creation of a fitting monument to glasnost.

Outside the Kremlin, a possible candidate for re-designation would be the Lenin museum on the edge of Red Square. Before the revolution, the building housed the Moscow city council, or *duma*. The past year has heard many a criticism of the use to which the ornate red-brick building is currently put. Its showrooms are more often than not empty - fewer and fewer school groups traipse through its halls.

If the combination of economic and ideological realities impinges further, however, Mr Gorbachev could do worse than to requisition the building for his library.



Air traffic control: US Army helicopters flying in close formation near Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday in a dress rehearsal for tomorrow's "national welcome home day". A huge military parade featuring General Norman Schwarzkopf will celebrate the allied victory in the Gulf war

June summit in Moscow could agree arms deal

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, will meet in Geneva today for talks that are expected to focus on preparations for President Bush's summit meeting with President Gorbachev.

Their meeting comes amid a flurry of East-West diplo-

macy as Western leaders decide how best to include the Soviet leader in their discussions at the London economic summit next month. Britain has notified its partners that it is to issue a formal invitation to Mr Gorbachev to discuss economic recovery for the Soviet Union in the margins of the two-day summit of the Group of Seven, which ends on July 17. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, who

has been one of the most enthusiastic advocates of Mr Gorbachev's attendance, told the Bundestag yesterday that the Soviet leader would meet leaders of the seven in London, but he said the West was "not in a position to finance a bottomless barrel".

East-West security questions have been pre-occupying the West. The Copenhagen meeting of Nato foreign min-

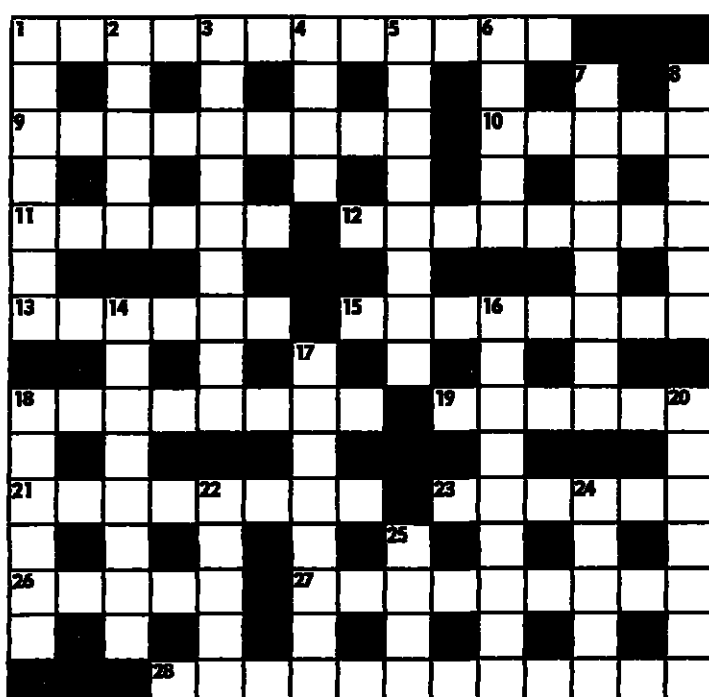
isters has been looking at the overlapping functions of Nato, the Western European Union, the proposed European defence union and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. These issues will come up again in two weeks' time in Berlin, where the foreign ministers of all 34 CSCE members will hold their first follow-up meeting since signing the Charter of Paris in November.

No date has been fixed for

the US-Soviet summit, but American officials have made enquiries about Moscow hotel space for the end of June. Diplomats suggest Mr Bush could be there on June 25 and 26. He and Mr Gorbachev would like to sign a strategic arms reduction agreement. The main outlines were settled a year ago, but the remaining details have yet to be agreed.

US offer, page 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,626



- ACROSS
- Present key player out of the band (5,7).
 - Checking harangue about trade being ruined (9).
 - Save game points (3).
 - Freeze better in Antarctica? (3-3).
 - What an idiot to break a dish (8).
 - Course for important people (6).
 - Explicit note on the island (8).
 - Mundane task takes a time (8).
 - Artist arrived first in this privately (6).
 - Disreputable people at a junction in the underground section? (8).
 - When covering pie, reverse the layers (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,625

ACROSS
1. NICK
2. FRODO
3. POINT
4. ANTARCTICA
5. DISH
6. COURSE
7. ISLAND
8. TASK
9. ARTIST
10. JUNCTION
11. REVERSE

DOWN
1. NICK
2. FRODO
3. POINT
4. ANTARCTICA
5. DISH
6. COURSE
7. ISLAND
8. TASK
9. ARTIST
10. JUNCTION
11. REVERSE

- 26 "Or at the casement see her (Tennyson) (5).
- 27 Sweeping victory starting to emerge after sixteen moves (9).
- 28 Some days felt strange mock humility (5,7).
- DOWN
- Exclude top man from London borough (7).
 - Fibre botanist leaves inside (5).
 - Rabelais's plant, making Agag turn a somersault? (9).
 - Love a girl's shape (4).
 - Crushing defeat to a lower formation (8).
 - Part of saint taken by priest in church (5).
 - Bit of fish for the ballet dancer (8).
 - This seat gives a rigid driving position (6).
 - Sure can't translate this language (8).
 - Many pushed forward and got punished (9).
 - Having no bread in Paris but not suffering (8).
 - Waves overwhelm sailor in river (6).
 - Rebel in girl's school (7).
 - Papers, say, end up without an editor (5).
 - A girl can be wrong (5).
 - Little bit of a feline (4).

Concise crossword, page 21

By Philip Howard

GLYPHIC

a. Blinded by cataracts

b. To do with stone-carving

c. Tease and groom

LUBRICOUS

a. Fluffy

b. Slippery

c. Blushing

CHANCERY

a. Taking risks

b. Having a head under your arm

c. Oxford University governing body

CORVEE

a. The hooded crow

b. Long vacation in France

c. Compulsory road-mending

Answers on page 22

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C London (within N & S Circs) 731

M-ways/roads M4 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733

M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 734

M-ways/roads M25-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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WEATHER

The Midlands, East Anglia and southern areas of England and Wales will start overcast with some rain, but becoming drier and brighter. East and northeastern England will be dull with patchy drizzle. The rest of England and Wales could start cloudy, brightening later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with sunny periods. Outlook: generally dry but rain spreading to all parts.

AROUND BRISTOL

MONDAY: h-thunder, d-dizzle, f-fog, s-sun, sh-shower, w-wind, l-l, c-cloud, n-rain

Aberdeen	20	68	Madrid	24	75
Amsterdam	24	75	Malaga	25	77
Antwerp	25	77	Malta	24	75
Athens	31	88	Milan	17	63
Bahia	28	78	Munich	10	50
Bangkok	34	93	Nairobi	10	50
Barcelona	28	82	Paris	18	64
Bombay	31	88	Rome	20	68
Buenos Aires	21	70	Saint Paul	16	61
Calcutta	22	72	Sao Paulo	16	61
Cairo	17	63	Singapore	23	73
Cardiff	27	81	Tokyo	23	73
Cebu	27	81	Toronto	23	73
Dublin	17	63	Valencia	23	73
Edinburgh	17	63	Warsaw	15	59
Helsinki	17	63	Wellington	12	54
London	17	63	Zurich	12	54
Luxembourg	17	63			
Madrid	24	75			
Malaga	25	77			
Malta	24	75			
Milan	17	63			
Munich	10	50			
Nairobi	10	50			
Paris	18	64			
Rome	20	68			
Saint Paul	16	61			
Sao Paulo	16	61			
Singapore	23	73			
Tokyo	23	73			
Toronto	23	73			
Valencia	23	73			
Warsaw	15	59			
Wellington	12	54			
Zurich	12	54			

* denotes figures are latest available

Greater London

Kent, Surrey, Sussex

Dorset, Hampshire & IOW

Devon & Cornwall

Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset

Berkshire, Oxfordshire

Bedfordshire, Essex

Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire

West Midlands & Shropshire

Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire

Central Midlands

East Midlands

East of England

W & S Yorks & Dales

N & E England

Cumbria & Lake District

S.W. Scotland

E. S. Fringe/Lowland & Borders

W. Central Scotland

Glasgow & E. Highlands

N.W. Scotland

Canterbury, Orkney & Shetland

N. Ireland

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 17C (63F); min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 13.8 hr.

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THE MIDLANDS, EAST ANGLIA AND SOUTHERN AREAS OF ENGLAND AND WALES WILL START OVERCAST WITH SOME RAIN, BUT BECOMING DRIER AND BRIGHTER. EAST AND NORTHEASTERN ENGLAND WILL BE DULL WITH PATCHY DRIZZLE. THE REST OF ENGLAND AND WALES COULD START CLOUDY, BRIGHTENING LATER. SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND WILL BE MOSTLY DRY WITH SUNNY PERIODS. OUTLOOK: GENERALLY DRY BUT RAIN SPREADING TO ALL PARTS.

AROUND BRISTOL

MONDAY: h-thunder, d-dizzle, f-fog, s-sun, sh-shower, w-wind, l-l, c-cloud, n-rain

TEMPERATURES					
	C	F			
Belfast	16	61	Guernsey	13	55
Birmingham	13	55	C	Inverness	11
Bristol	13	54	C	Jersey	15
Cardiff	16	61	C	London	16
Cebu	18	64	C	Manchester	11
Edinburgh	11	52	C	Newcastle	11
Glasgow	11	52	C	Ridgeway	11

* denotes figures are latest available

Greater London

Kent, Surrey, Sussex

Dorset, Hampshire & IOW

Devon & Cornwall

Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset

Berkshire, Oxfordshire

Bedfordshire, Essex

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Business Editor
John Bell

THE TIMES
BUSINESS

FRIDAY JUNE 7 1991

GPA up despite recession

IN THE worst recession in modern airline history, GPA, the world's biggest aircraft leasing group, has emerged intact, so far. In the year to end March, GPA, which is based in Shannon, Ireland, but accounts in dollars, increased pre-tax profit 14 per cent to \$281 million and after-tax profit 8 per cent to \$262 million. Turnover fell 4 per cent to \$1.89 billion.

Norcros falls

Pre-tax profits at Norcros, the building materials to print and packaging group, fell 60 per cent to £15 million in the year to end March. A £33.4 million writedown in the value of the development portfolio, resulted in total losses of £32.7 million. The final dividend was 3½p (11p), making a total 7p (16p).

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE
Lloyd's of London is facing a watershed. David Coleridge, the chairman, tells Gillian Bowditch about his privileged background.

MORTGAGE MISERY
Sara McConnell finds out that homebuyers looking for the lowest monthly payments could find themselves with a never-ending mortgage.

COMPENSATION
Millions of pounds have been paid in compensation to thousands of credit and charge cardholders in the past year but many have missed out, Lindsay Cook, Money Editor, reports.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6895 (-0.0035)
German mark 2.9592 (-0.0019)
Exchange index 91.1 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1974.1 (-0.7)
FT-SE 100 2525.3 (+3.8)
New York Dow Jones 3007.60 (+2.23)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 24984.12 (-305.45)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Basis 99½p (+15p)
Guinness 485p (+11p)
Whitbread 'A' 512½p (+8p)
Dunhill 485p (+8p)
Thames Corp 815p (+10p)
Tate 182p (+9p)
Wellcome 630p (+19p)
Williams Holdings 297½p (+9p)
LASMO 330p (+10p)
Carlton Comm 483½p (+15p)
Rothmans 'B' 90½p (+11p)
FALLS:
CE Health 467½p (-14p)
Cable & Wireless 421p (-8p)
VSEL 757½p (-12p)
Unilever 729p (-15p)
UK Land 885p (-15p)
Derwent Holdings 404p (-8p)
News Corp 344½p (-9p)
Hepworth 320½p (-9p)
Lloyds 320½p (-9p)
Closing Prices...Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 11½%
3-month interbank 11½-11¾%
3-month eligible bills 10½-10¾%
US: Prime Rate 8½%
Federal Funds 5¼%
3-month Treasury Bids 5½-5¾%
30-year bonds 8½-8¾%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.6895
DM £2.9592
Sfr £2.5253
FF £12.0230
Yen £125.10
Yen £130.15
Index 91.1
ECU £0.686003 SDR £0.787837
ECU £1.436775 SDR £1.268298

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$383.40 pm \$384.85
close \$384.00-384.50 (\$215.50-216.01)
New York:
Comex \$384.95-385.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$18.10 bbl (\$18.45)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.1 April (1987=100)

Referral to restrictive practices court

Borrie accuses sugar firms of price fixing

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE Office of Fair Trading has referred Tate & Lyle and British Sugar to the Restrictive Practices Court for creating an informal agreement that fixed sugar prices for four years.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the OFT, has made the referral even though the arrangements were terminated last July, when the boards were made aware of them in the lead-up to Tate & Lyle renewing a bid for Berisford, British Sugar's former owner.

Sir Gordon said the arrangements had to be referred because they had a significant effect upon competition in the sugar market over a period of four years.

Under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976, there is little the court can do but demand undertakings from the companies that they will not make any similar agreements in future.

The companies, which between them have a 92 per cent market share, could suffer if the European Commission decides to investigate and deems there was a cartel. This could result in the companies being fined up to 10 per cent of annual turnover. A commission spokesman said that no enquiry had been started.

Sugar users could also sue for civil damages if they are able to show material detriment from the operation of the agreement. A spokesman for the United Kingdom Industrial Sugar Users Group said it was too soon to



Sir Gordon: competition

comment on whether members would sue. This sentiment was echoed by Rowntree and United Biscuits, two of the group's biggest members.

So far, this type of civil dispute has not come to court because the parties have made out of court settlements. Moreover, it is difficult to quantify loss by determining just how far out of kilter prices were during the life of the arrangements.

If sued, the companies could argue that the retail price has simply risen in line with inflation. Industry analysts at Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker, said prices had been very low in 1986 after the collapse of the International Sugar Agreement and that it was unlikely that users had been detrimentally affected by the arrangements, which saw a gradual rise in the price.

Tate & Lyle said it had announced last July it was telling the OFT of the arrange-

ments it had discovered. A spokesman said the practices were "definitely not" sanctioned from above and two unidentified employees had since left the company.

He said: "We are co-operating with the OFT and we will give the court undertakings not to do it again." Tate & Lyle has since introduced a "competition law of compliance programme" to alert employees to the legal position.

British Sugar, which was bought last year by Associated British Foods for £880 million, said it agreed with Tate & Lyle to send the OFT a memorandum describing the arrangements, but refused to comment further.

The OFT said the arrangements involved three areas:
□ Bringing an end to a price war that had operated in the Eighties, which had almost ruined Tate & Lyle;
□ An agreement that retail market shares would tend to remain at about the level prevailing at that time (June 1986);
□ And to that end, British Sugar informed Tate & Lyle of changes to its list prices and discount policy before it had made any announcement to its customers, and an understanding that neither company would fix its prices aggressively with a view to increasing its market share beyond a certain band of tolerance.

Shares in both companies dipped on news of the referral. Tate & Lyle ended 5p lower at 356p, while Associated British Foods shares closed 2p lower at 529p.

Dealers walk free after insider case collapses

By OUR CITY STAFF

TWO former market-makers at County NatWest Securities walked free from court yesterday after the second collapse of an insider dealing trial in two months.

Russell Kean, aged 31, of Church Road, Ramsden Bellhouse, near Wickford, Essex, and Stephen Floyd, aged 26, of Hatchlands, Broad Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex, denied four insider dealing offences in relation to 350,000 Grand Metropolitan shares. At the Inner London Crown Court, Judge Norma Negus ruled there was no case to answer against the two men who had been prosecuted by the trade department under section 1(4) of the Companies Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985.

The prosecution alleged the two stood to make £70,000 profit for County NatWest after buying shares in Grand Metropolitan, the food and leisure group, during a five-minute period when they were alleged to have inside knowledge that GrandMet was selling the £1.5 billion intercontinental group.

A trade department spokeswoman said the department had not yet decided whether an appeal was appropriate or whether the attorney general may see fit to refer the matter to a higher court.

Mr Floyd, who was dismissed by County after the charges were laid, made a

statement through his solicitor, Brooke Blain Russell, saying the charges were misconceived and failed because the department could not establish the time of the allegedly price sensitive GrandMet announcement. Moreover, the stock exchange's computers were "not shown to be working properly on the day".

The statement also said that the County analyst who had passed the information to the market-makers was not shown to be a "connected" person under section 9 of the Insider Dealing Act.

The prosecution alleged the two men had bought 50,000 shares in GrandMet without

correctly understanding what the announcement from the stock exchange would say. However it was alleged they knew the position perfectly when they had gone on to buy another 350,000 shares.

The collapse of the trade department's case follows a more spectacular failure in April when Reg Breasley, the former Sheffield United soccer chairman, was cleared of insider dealing charges before the trial began.

Then, Judge Sanders ordered the crown prosecution service to pay costs of about £500,000 because of the "appalling" case they presented.

Boots sales rise to £3.6bn

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SIR James Blyth, chief executive of Boots, does not regret acquiring Ward White and said he would do it again, but with the benefit of hindsight he would have negotiated a lower price for the Halfords, Payless and AG Stanley group. He paid £900 million for it almost two years ago.

"At that time, no-one expected this depression to go on as long as it has done," he said, but added that the deal was strategically right for Boots.

The group is coping with the

recession better than many of its competitors and Boots the Chemist, in particular, has performed well. The other retail businesses were less well placed but all improved their positions with the exception of Halfords, the car parts and servicing chain.

The pharmaceuticals division is expected to see a contribution to profits from Manoplax, Boots' heart drug, by the end of 1993. The drug is awaiting registration in America and the United Kingdom.

Pre-tax profits for the whole group were static at £358 million for the year to end March. Sales rose 5.4 per cent to £3.57 billion and earnings per share fell 2.4 per cent to 24.9p. The final dividend is up 4.9 per cent at 7.5p making 11.6p for the year, an increase of 5.5 per cent.

Sir James added: "We view the current retail market in the UK with caution and are controlling our costs accordingly."

World trade talks in jeopardy



Taking a tough stance: Carla Hills tells the Institute of Directors that she prefers not to work to a deadline

Hills tells EC to alter rules soon

CARLA Hills, the American trade representative, has told the European Community to liberalise the market in farm goods quickly or risk seeing talks on freer world trade fail (Colin Narborough writes).

Her warning, and remarks from European Community officials, cast doubt on the chances of the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks being completed successfully this year, despite a commitment on Wednesday by the leading industrial economies to give it priority. Trade ministers meeting in Paris this week suggested a breakthrough was close. A communiqué called for a conclusion, preferably by the year end.

But Mrs Hills, speaking at the Institute of Directors in London yesterday, rejected a deadline, preferring progress on substance to dictate the pace. EC officials said progress was unsure as there had been no narrowing of the gap between America and the EC.

Mrs Hills said that unless the Community came quickly to the table to negotiate substantial progressive reductions in barriers to market access, export subsidies, and internal supports hinged to production, the Round would continue to drift. "Ultimately, I fear, it will break on the rocks of partisan politics - yours and ours."

□ The European Community said it was ready to take part in bilateral discussions on subsidies to the Airbus programme, sought by America

New indicators sought

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Treasury is planning to turn to the private sector for new indicators of economic activity that might give earlier information about the shape of the business cycle and the timing of a recovery.

Norman Lamont and his advisers believe that the recession is nearing its low point and the lag in the official statistics has become particularly frustrating and politically damaging. On Sunday, Mr Lamont referred to "faint stirrings" of recovery, which official statistics had yet to detect.

However, officials reject the charge that the statistical en-

quiry might be politically motivated, noting that none of the new figures is likely to be available for months.

The officials said that it would take some time to discover which new indicators could be collected rapidly from the private sector and which of these might turn out to be useful. It would then take months of study to test the relationships between these figures and economic performance in the past. As a result, any new series would probably not be ready for publication for many months - by which time the recession would be

over, at least if the Chancellor's lurch about "faint stirrings" is right.

Among the new statistics being considered are indicators of electricity consumption, petrol and diesel sales, telephone traffic, advertising expenditure and retailing activity. According to government economists, the study is part of the Treasury's continuing efforts to improve the quality of economic statistics and of its own forecasts, which notably failed last year to gauge the depth of the present recession.

Officials are seeking figures that businesses with high market shares in crucial areas of the economy may be collecting for their own internal purposes. These might be more timely than survey data used at present, which depends on hundreds of companies speaking to official statisticians or completing questionnaires.

British Telecom and the big petrol distributors, which collect sales data on a daily or weekly basis, are the kind of sources officials mention.

Manufacturers cut investment plans

By COLIN NARBOROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH manufacturers have pared intended investment plans dramatically this spring, despite the series of interest rate cuts since mid-February, the government's latest survey shows.

The Central Statistical Office figures indicate a fall of almost 14 per cent in investment plans for this year, nearly double the decline forecast in the last survey in December. All industrial sectors are now in decline.

The Treasury said the 14 per cent drop in volume terms was consistent with the Budget forecast of a 9.75 per cent fall in overall business investment this year, as manufacturing was more volatile than other sectors.

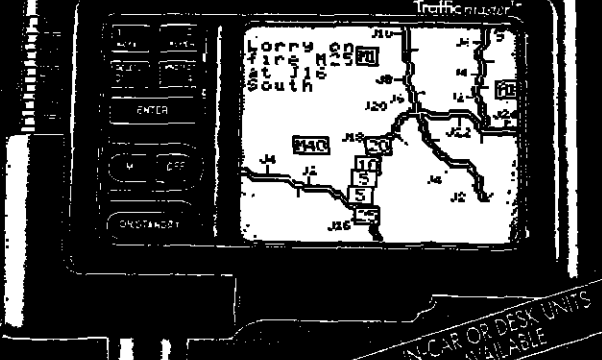
For next year, the Budget predicted a rise of 1.25 per cent in business investment.

Neil Williams, head of economic policy at the Confederation of British Industry, said the latest figures brought the government more into line with independent forecasters.

The CBI's latest survey showed manufacturers expecting a fall in investment of more than 17 per cent this year.

In the first quarter this year, manufacturers invested a seasonally adjusted £2.56 billion, down from £2.88 billion in the final quarter last year, and compared with £3.12 billion in the first quarter of last year.

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Agnew: other interests

Agnew takes leave of Hanson board

By COLIN CAMPBELL

RUDOLPH Agnew, who as the chairman of Consolidated Gold Fields made City history by accepting a seat on the board of Hanson after being taken over, resigned yesterday.

Mr Agnew, chairman of TVS, Sealink Stena Line, and a director of Standard Chartered Bank, New London, and Newmont Mining, says he has left Hanson "to pursue his other business interests". Consolidated Gold Fields was taken over by Hanson for £3.2 billion in 1989.

But in view of Hanson's acquisition of 2.8 per cent of ICI, ahead of what might turn out to be a hostile bid, his resignation has intrigued analysts. Mr Agnew declined to comment on Hanson's ICI holding, but he is known to be

against hostile bids that do not make commercial sense - a stance which suggests that his leaving Hanson happens at a convenient time.

Mr Agnew led the 1988-9 fight against Sir Michael Edwards and Minorco's bid to take over ConsGold - only to fall to Hanson a few months later. Ironically, it was Mr Agnew who was selected from among 35 director colleagues at Hanson's January 30 annual meeting to second the re-election of Martin Taylor, a Hanson vice chairman.

But although at that meeting Mr Agnew was seen to have jumped to his feet as fast as the rest of the board as Lord Hanson made his orchestrated stage entrance, Mr Agnew, this correspondent recalls, was the only director not to be seen clapping as Lord Hanson

made his entrance. "A pure oversight, I suspect. Somebody should have nudged me," Mr Agnew says. "My leaving Hanson has been entirely amicable," he adds.

He intends developing his business interests, especially those connected with mining and aggregates. He is also associated with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge.

Mr Agnew is Sir James Goldsmith's representative on Newmont Mining's board, and as such is involved in merger talks with American Barrick that could lead to the birth of the world's second largest mining company.

As chairman of TVS, he awaits the outcome of the recent bid franchises. "Life will not be dull," the man who left Hanson said.

Leigh rises to £14m

LEIGH Interests, which merged with HT Hughes through a £33 million agreed bid to form one of Britain's largest waste management companies in September last year, increased annual pre-tax profits 77 per cent.

In the year to end August, pre-tax profits rose from £8.35 million to £14.77 million.

Earnings rose from an adjusted 16.1p a share to 18p. A final dividend of 5.24p a share makes 7.64p for the year (7.1p).

Ruda appointed

Mike Ruda is appointed deputy managing director of News International, publisher of *The Times*, from 1 July. He has been group marketing director of News International since 1987.

Shipley buys

Brown Shipley, the 180-year-old merchant bank, has expanded its asset management division by buying CIBC Investment Management from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Stake increased

Caledonia Investments, the Cayzer family vehicle, has increased its stake in Harry Ramsden's, the fish and chips restaurant group, to almost 25 per cent.

CE Heath to pay directors from rights cash

By NEIL BENNETT

CE Heath, the insurance group, has earmarked part of a £45.7 million rights issue to pay five senior directors for an acquisition that was completed five years ago.

Richard Fielding, Heath's chairman, Michael Kier, joint managing director, three other board members and 15 other executives stand to gain more than £2 million a year between them for the next three years from Heath. The insurance company agreed to the payments in its £70 million merger with Fielding Insurance, in 1986.

Peter Presland, joint managing director, defended the payments: "We had to take over this commitment in the acquisition," he said. The directors can decide to take Heath shares instead of cash.

Heath is holding the one-for-four rights issue at 380p a share to pay for this and other deferred considerations totalling £13 million last year, and cut debt by £15.25 million.

The company has been forced to raise the money since £35.5 million of its reserves have been frozen

during a long legal battle against the State of Victoria in Australia.

Together with other insurers, Heath is suing the state for contributions to workers' compensation claims, which it stopped paying in 1988. The insurers have won ten out of 12 test cases, but Victoria has started a lengthy appeal. Until the case is settled, Heath must keep the reserves in Australia to pay potential claims.

Mr Presland said: "We had hoped to realise the funds for the acquisitions. We have sufficient borrowings and need to pay deferred considerations on a raft of acquisitions."

Heath suffered a 6 per cent drop in pre-tax profits in the year to end March to £25.6 million. The company was hit by a £3.2 million exceptional charge from legal fees and the partial closure of its new German subsidiary. This wiped out the benefit of an underlying 21 per cent growth in brokerage income.

The final dividend is held at 18.375p, after an unchanged interim of 7.5p.



Reflecting on falling profits: Sir Antony Pilkington, chairman of the group

Profits halved at Pilkington

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

PRE-TAX profits at Pilkington, one of the world's largest glass manufacturers, more than halved in the year to March 31, from £314 million to £152 million, and look like falling further this year.

Over 4,200 Pilkington employees lost their jobs, leading to redundancy costs of £18 million and Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman, said there will be further

reductions. The board is dipping into its reserves to hold its dividend to shareholders, with a 7.5p second interim making 10.5p for the year. After £48 million of extraordinary costs relating to sales and closures, the group is left with earnings of 8.6p a share. Profits from flat and safety glass dropped from £161 million to £127.3 million in Europe, from £27.9 million

to £9 million in North America, and from £103.9 million to £60.8 million in the rest of the world.

Sir Antony said the recession has been particularly severe on the company's two main markets, the building and automotive industries, and saw no sign of the "stirrings" of recovery.

Comment, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Philips sells out of white goods venture

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, is bowing out of its joint venture with Whirlpool International, one of the world's largest white goods producers. Philips is raising \$650 million through a disposal of its minority stake to Whirlpool. The deal comes amid efforts by Philips to streamline the company after a 4.24 billion guilders (£1.3 billion) loss last year. The restructuring exercise, codenamed Operation Centurion, is aimed to reduce the number of business activities.

Whirlpool International was a joint venture between Philips and Whirlpool. The disposal price was slightly above expectations and is thought to take account of better than expected profits at Whirlpool.

Profits dive at Rowlinson

PRE-TAX profits at Rowlinson Securities, the property investor and developer, collapsed to £93,000 (£2.81 million) in the year to end March. Rental income increased 32 per cent to £2.83 million, but there was an exceptional debit of £1.48 million. Earnings per share dropped to 1.58p (14.84p), but the final dividend is still 1.11p for an unchanged 1.35p. The net asset value fell to £2.26 (£2.30) per share.

French falls to £329,000

PRE-TAX profits at Thomas French & Sons, the curtain tapes and home improvements group, fell from £507,000 to £329,000 in the six months to end March. Group sales were 23.6 per cent lower at £7.12 million (£9.32 million). Sales from continuing operations fell 14 per cent. Earnings per share slipped to 1.63p (2.77p), although the interim dividend is maintained at 1.45p. The shares rose 4p to 49p.

Carr's cuts dividend

CARR'S Milling Industries, the flour milling to agricultural products group, has cut its interim dividend to 1p (1.75p) after half-year profits slumped. Pre-tax profits plunged to £32,000 (£420,000) in the six months to March 2, on sales down to £37.6 million (£46 million).

Profits were affected by margin erosion in the flour milling and baking businesses. There were nil earnings per share, against a 29.1p loss per share last time. The group's withdrawal from pig and broiler rearing and the termination of the coarse feed production activity in Scotland resulted in an extraordinary debit of £169,000. The shares lost 4p to 148p.

Ferguson slips to £11.6m

FERGUSON International Holdings, the adhesive label and hangers group that sold some non-core interests in the year ended February 28, says trading in Britain and America remains tough. Pre-tax profits for the 1990-1 financial year were £11.6 million (£13.1 million). A maintained final dividend of 8.25p a share makes an unchanged 12.5p for the year.

Allied plans open offer

ALLIED Partnership Group, which concentrates on environmental contracting activities, plans a conditional placing and open offer to raise £7.44 million, net via a three-for-five offer at 17p a share. The company has sold several non-core interests, consequently suffering from write-offs, and needs, therefore, to strengthen the balance sheet.

Director for Barclays

BARCLAYS Bank has appointed a finance director to succeed Brian Pearce, who left in March to become chief executive at Midland Bank. He is Peter Wood, aged 48, who also joins the bank's board as its youngest director.

Mr Wood starts his job at a sensitive point in Barclays' reorganisation. He will head the new finance division, which plans to introduce a single standard of risk management throughout the bank. Mr Wood, who takes control of the bank's £135 billion asset portfolio, said: "We must have a common method of measuring profitability so we know how to allocate capital." He was previously group treasurer.

VSEL aims to sell Cammell yard

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HOPES are growing that the Cammell Laird shipyard on Merseyside will at least retain some ship repair work, when the last submarine is completed there in 1993, and that the number employed on the 160-acre site can be increased by selling part for other uses.

Noel Davies, chief executive of VSEL, the yard's parent company, revealed growing optimism about the disposal talks yesterday.

However, VSEL, which also builds Trident nuclear submarines at its Barrow yard, has been forced to set aside £125 million to restructure its shipbuilding activities.

Shares in the group eased 9p to 421p. An unchanged final dividend of 15.5p makes a total of 22.5p (20p). Despite restructuring, pre-tax profits at VSEL for the year to end March rose 33 per cent to £40.7 million. The results benefited from

strong cashflow and a year-end balance of £152 million. Production of the company's AS90 howitzer helped non-naval activities soar to £101 million (£6.5 million) out of £522 million total turnover.

Thanks largely to the Trident programme, VSEL has a £3.5 billion order book. An order for the fourth, and final, boat in the series would lift that to almost £5 billion.

VSEL has set aside £50 million for the closure of Cammell Laird, where the number building conventional submarines has already been cut by 900 to 1,600. Ship repair, heavy engineering, chemical waste treatment and warehousing now appear likely uses for the site.

Half of the £75 million restructuring provision for Barrow will fund redundancies. Staff have been cut by 2,000, from 14,000 and are expected to level at 8,000.

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Pilkington's hopes shattered

COMMENT

Sir Antony Pilkington wears the air of the oppressed. His family has spent almost two centuries building the one of the biggest glass manufacturing businesses in the world, and now it seems to him that everybody just wants to throw stones at it.

Even when there are no bonafide bidders like BTR, there are plenty of stock market snipers who tell you there is a predator in the wings. There are equity investors worrying about their dividend cover, politicians decrying the group's redundancy programme. And when all of these are silent, there is the press says Sir Antony.

They all have a lot to aim at. Pilkington's performance last year was appalling. Turnover slipped from £2.92 billion to £2.65 billion, profits halved to £152 million, and after closure costs of almost £50 million, earnings failed to cover an unchanged dividend.

None of this was easily avoidable according to Sir Antony. As a supplier to the world's automotive and construction industries, Pilkington could not hope to escape the

recessions that have struck Britain, America and the rest of its trading territories.

Sir Antony makes the point that glass manufacturing is a continuous process industry. Some plant has been running day and night, for a decade or more. It cannot be switched on and off with every twitch in demand. Therefore profits will fluctuate while there are economic cycles.

The company's misfortune is not that this should be the case, but that the City is apt to forget it. Pilkington has been pressed into a damage limitation exercise that will deposit more of its workforce into the dole queues, threaten to close some of its more promising new diversifications, and jeopardise its R&D efforts. It is Britain's misfortune that Pilkington should be questioning whether it can any longer afford to develop its high risk businesses.

This recession has already cost 4,200 Pilkington employees their

jobs, and even an immediate cut in base rates to 10 per cent, which is what Pilkington believes is necessary to breathe confidence back into the market, will not prevent more job losses this year.

Such a cut would be unlikely anyway to generate sufficient earnings to cover an unchanged dividend this year. The impetus is fading from the German boom, currently providing half of the group's European profits, and the company sees no hint of the recovery that others profess to have seen here. Meanwhile, with the balance of profits switching from Britain and America to Germany and South Africa, the tax charge, 42 per cent last time, is set to rise still further.

Cash generation will benefit from the £100 million cut in capital expenditure now that the float line construction pro-

gramme is complete, but there's no escaping that 1991-92 will be another dismal year for Pilkington. Does it leave the group vulnerable to a bid? "Only to the rumours," says Sir Antony.

GPA flies on

Aircraft leasing is not the easiest business to be in if you are trying to create a buoyant image ahead of a big international share flotation early next year. The airline industry is in terrible shape, previously expensive international banks have drawn in their horns and second-hand aircraft values have tumbled. So far, however, Tony Ryan's GPA Group, which bought 8 per cent by value of world production of commercial jet aircraft in the

year to end March and is by far the biggest specialist in aircraft operating leases, is taking the strain.

Since GPA has kept the average age of the aircraft it owns under five years and has traditionally avoided jumbo jets, the travails of airlines such as PanAm have so far had only a minor impact. Only Air Europe's collapse involved many new aircraft and the banks that owned the finance leases have not dumped them on the market. GPA admits it has found it hard to place new aircraft recently but has managed to do so thus far.

A wide spread of customers, up a third to 89 in 46 countries last year, has helped. The worst of the industry slump has been in Europe and North America, where GPA is relatively under-represented, so its recent drive in Latin America and the Far East, where China is an important new customer, is paying off.

Fortunately, \$3.6 billion of

banking facilities organised early last year should suffice for two more years. Meanwhile, \$400 million was recently raised in medium-term loan notes and another tranche is planned shortly. GPA's blue-chip shareholder list, which includes some of the world's biggest financial institutions, may have helped.

At the other end of the financing chain, sales of interests in aircraft to investors have come under pressure, not through lack of interest, GPA maintains, but because investors are short of funds. Securitised aircraft sales stayed at \$1 billion in 1990-91, but this was less than hoped.

The strain was evident in the second half, when post-tax profits fell 4 per cent to \$122 million, despite a recovery in the final quarter. Regardless of any short-term profits benefit from lower growth, the record of unbroken annual profits growth is in danger. Dr Ryan still exudes confidence that airlines will take \$480 billion of new aircraft by the end of the decade. His flotation advisers might quietly tell him that GPA needs to fly through the storm to convince new investors.

Govan pulls hard against the tide of recession

NEXT month, Britain's largest remaining merchant ship building yard, Kvaerner Govan, on Clydeside, will launch a £50 million liquefied petroleum gas tanker.

Soon afterwards, the yard's Norwegian owners are likely to go to the government for £10 million or more of subsidies to enable them to win more orders. Without government cash, the yard will be unable to match prices offered by more efficient shipbuilders in the Far East, and work will dry up.

It is ironic that after three years in the private sector, and £26 million of investment by the new owners, Kvaerner Govan is still unable to compete without government assistance. Yet Steinar Draegebo, the yard's Norwegian managing director, is confident that an end is at last in sight to a decline that has cost 70,000 shipbuilding jobs in Britain in the past decade.

"We look at subsidies as a transitional arrangement," he said. "We think we will really make good profits in the end. Our plea to the government is to give us some more breathing space. Kvaerner made tonnes of money in shipbuilding up to the early 1980s. We think the market is coming back and these good times will return, but we are not quite there yet."

The European Community Shipbuilding Intervention Fund was designed to encourage the reduction of European shipbuilding capacity and modernisation of retained yards. The subsidy available has been reduced in stages, but it still permits governments to fund up to 13 per cent of the cost of merchant ships ordered from UK yards. Under trade department rules, any profit has to be repaid to the government.

Kvaerner bought Govan from the state-owned British Shipbuilders for £7 million in 1988. In its first year under Kvaerner it made a profit. Last year losses on Clydeside almost wiped out the entire shipbuilding profit achieved by Kvaerner's other yards, even though the group ranks as the world's second biggest shipbuilder. Mr Draegebo de-



Drastic action: Steinar Draegebo outlasted Govan's 1,600-strong hourly paid workers

clined to detail the scale of the losses. But he has taken drastic action to improve productivity.

Last month he outlasted his 1,600-strong hourly paid workforce in one of the most dramatic industrial confrontations of recent times. The workers had rejected the advice of union leaders to accept a 21-month pay deal, accompanied by new shift patterns

'Our plea to the government is to give us some more breathing space'

and reduced payments in the event of redundancy. They walked out. After a week, Kvaerner sent dismissal notices to the strikers, offering to re-employ them on the terms of the offer. A week later, the workforce voted to return.

Diplomatically, Mr Draegebo insists the confrontation had neither winners nor losers. In practice, it appears to have strengthened the authority of both management and the unions' negotiators.

Davy Cooper, convenor of the yard shop stewards, said that the strike was the first

major stoppage at the yard for 25 years. Previously workers had been able to dragoon management. Not any more.

Mr Draegebo has high praise for the skills of the Govan workforce. Almost 1,000 welders have received additional training since Kvaerner took charge. But psychologically, adaptation to private ownership has proved a slow process among a

workforce where many believe shipbuilding is a strategic industry deserving long-term state support.

The tough pay settlement and changes in working practices were the last of three main steps intended to make the yard competitive. The physical structure has already been modernised by the removal of a dozen buildings. In their place stands a shed that will enable fabrication of ships in as few as a dozen sections under cover. Each completed and painted section, weighing up to 1,500 tonnes, will then

be moved on to a modernised building berth alongside for final assembly.

Three layers of management have been removed to cut costs and improve communication with the workforce. The revised shift pattern and creation of a single craftsman grade should complete the main reforms to working practices.

Improvements in productivity mean the yard requires an increasing flow of orders to remain busy and cost effective. Mr Draegebo is convinced that Kvaerner Govan is now on a footing to compete profitably in its chosen ship specialties, such as gas tankers, when an upturn in demand and prices takes place.

The world's merchant fleet is becoming long in the tooth, and building capacity has been savagely cut. But the Gulf war and the international recession have delayed re-ordering. Ministers will want to know when the upturn will come before they put their hands in their pockets. That will not be an easy question for Mr Draegebo to answer.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

TEMPUS

Boots the Chemist soothes Ward White indigestion

IF Sir James Blyth and his team at Boots can make the Ward White businesses perform as well as the core chemist chain, shareholders will be in for a bonanza.

But it is a big if. Halfords, which was sold to the City as the jewel in the Ward White crown at the time of the £900 million acquisition nearly two years ago, is performing abysmally badly with profits of only £2.8 million on sales of £290 million in the year to March 31.

In the seven months to end March last year the business made £12 million on sales of £171 million. Sales rose 12 per cent at Halfords last year, all of it coming from 28 new superstores commissioned before the recession. Boots is now strengthening the management and slowing down the store opening programme. It can do nothing about the 25 per cent slump in new car sales or the 15 per cent fall in bicycle sales.

But the City was in a forgiving mood, largely because of the strong performance from Boots the Chemist where net profits rose 14.8 per cent to £229 million on sales of £2.36 billion, up 4 per cent. The gross margin increased 1.5 percentage points.

Overall, the Boots company made pre-tax profits of £358 million for the year to end March, no change on last year.

Sales rose 5.4 per cent to £3.57 billion and earnings per share fell 2.4 per cent to 24.9p. The final dividend is up 4.9 per cent at 7.5p, making 11.6p for the year, up 5.5 per cent.

Payless and AG Stanley, the other Ward White businesses, performed better than expected. On a comparable basis, AG Stanley's profits rose 34 per cent to £9.5 million. Payless, now merged with WH Smith's Do It All in a 50-50 joint venture, contributed £15.4 million. There are no comparable figures. Pharmaceuticals had a difficult year with profits up 3.6 per cent at £115 million on sales of £628 million but in the second half profits fell.

Borrowings were reduced by £70 million and the gearing ratio is now 18 per cent. The shares, down 1p at 383p, are trading on 15.1 times prospec-

tive earnings assuming pre-tax profits this year of £375 million. Boots should be a core stock in any retail portfolio but the shares are unlikely to rise significantly before the end of the recession.

Norcross

SHARES in Norcross, the building materials to print and packaging group, rose 15p to 127p as the stock market took the view that the 60 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £15 million surely marked the end of the bad times.

The good times could, however, be a long time coming. Two years ago, Norcross was making pre-tax profits of more than £67 million.

Some improvement looks inevitable this year. During the last two years, the company has shed 2,500 jobs,

about 25 per cent of its workforce, but last year's £2 million of associated costs should mark the end of this particular drain on cashflow. A useful chunk of future interest has also been included in the £33.4 million extraordinary provision taken against the company's commercial property. Together, the two factors could add £6 million to pre-tax profits this year.

The extraordinary provision, which means the completed development portfolio is worth 30 per cent less than it cost to build, together with the cost of a 7p total dividend (16p) resulted in total losses of £32 million, the second significant loss in succession.

With 85 per cent of its sales in Britain, Norcross's recovery will not leave anyone out of breath. Net borrowings of almost £147 million and gearing of 98 per cent will only come down once the company has found a buyer for its development properties, now valued at £77 million, and £10 million or so of property vacated by operating companies.

Given some recovery in the second half as the housing market limps back life, pre-tax profits of £23 million look possible. That puts the shares on a price-earnings multiple of 12.3, in line with the market and probably high enough for now.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A curious coupling

STEPHEN Lewis, head of bond research at UBS Phillips & Drew until he set up on his own two and a half years ago, is branching out again. He has joined idea, the City research group, as international bond strategist — a curious move by all accounts. The group's international economist is Sir Alan Walters, former adviser to Mrs Thatcher. His views are likely to differ with Lewis's at almost every turn. Are they reluctant bedfellows? "Not reluctant, although we don't have the same political views," says Lewis, who remains a consultant to UBS and has never taken a rosy view of the UK economy. He does not expect the recession to bottom out until next year's second quarter.

Challenge sought
PETER Wakefield, the top fund manager who resigned from GT Management on

Wednesday, says his decision has nothing to do with the return from Tokyo of Hugh Sloane, a fellow director. Wakefield, who made his name at Clerical Medical and NM Rothschild, before joining GT in 1988, says he was no longer seeing eye to eye with Peter Stevens, the group chief executive. There was speculation that Sloane was to take over his job. Wakefield, aged

47, who leaves GT on July 12, says: "I came to GT to build up the UK team, and I need a new challenge."

Bubbling over

IN THESE hard times, it is surprising to see a company throw caution, and budgets, to the wind. Rudolph Wolff, the commodities broker, played host to about 1,700 clients from 54 countries on Wednesday evening at the Royal Festival Hall to celebrate the firm's 125th anniversary. To complement the repertoire of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, the company served hundreds of bottles of its own label Bollinger — specially branded for the celebrations. In fact, 70 cases were provided, adding close to £15,000 to the cost of the festivities.

Invisible ties

PETER Baring, chairman of Baring Brothers, flies to Lisbon next week for a conference hosted by British Invisibles, the former British Invisible Export Council. The

venue is the Royal Yacht Britannia, which has played host to such meetings for the past 11 years. Win Bischoff, chairman of J Schroder Wagg and Grant Baird, chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, will join Portuguese dignitaries to discuss the single European market, which is appropriate, as the Portuguese introduced tea to Britain in the 14th century, forging a link that has lasted to this day.

Calculating risk

TRUST an accountant to find a fundraising idea with a difference. Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte has dreamed up a sweepstake to help this year's Children in Cities appeal. The first prize is £100,000, but to win, one would have to guess the exact number of people to vote in the next general election. The odds are about 10 million to one, according to IGI Index, the bookmaker. Lloyd's of London will underwrite the risk.

JON ASHWORTH



"It's a profits warning from Pilkington."

600 Group dives into the red

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THE 600 Group, the machine tools and mechanical handling group, says it was hurt by high interest rates and recession in its markets in the year to end March.

Results for the year show a pre-tax loss of £650,000, compared with last year's £8.59 million profit. The final dividend is cut from 3.74p to 1p a share, which, together with the already reduced interim payment, trims the year's total from 6.2p to 2.5p a share.

At the net level, the loss was 3.3p a share, compared with previous net earnings of 11.4p a share. Turnover was £140.8 million (£155.8 million).

There were exceptional redundancy and reorganisation charges of £2.5 million, offset by property profits of £1 million, and the interest bill rose to £3.3 million.

The group expects to save £6 million after a reduction in staff numbers, but says the next six months will continue to be difficult. The shares were unchanged at 45p.

Millwall is behind £1.53m at half time

By MARTIN BARROW

THE troubled relationship between the City and quoted football clubs was further tested when Millwall Holdings, parent company of the second division team, reported losses before tax of £1.53 million for the six months to end November. Losses were 1.35p a share. There is again no dividend.

Reg Burr, the chairman, also announced that the company had received an approach for Taverna Leisure, its loss-making chain of 40 public houses. Millwall would retain a "substantial minority interest" in an enlarged group. Further details are expected to be announced shortly. Millwall acquired Taverna, which then had 27 pubs, for £9.7 million in January 1990.

Because of a change of year end, there are no comparable figures for the first half of the previous financial year. In the six months to the end of January 1990, the company



Game play: Reg Burr is discussing the sale of Taverna

earned profits of £133,000. Earnings are heavily weighted towards the second half due to the close season, when no league football activity takes place.

Losses included an exceptional charge of £100,000 in respect of compensation paid

to Bob Pearson, who was temporary manager of the football team, and his chief scout.

Millwall obtained a USM quotation in October 1989 through a placing and offer for sale at 20p. The shares were unchanged at 5p yesterday.

Marina loses £5.3m

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Marina Developments dropped 35p to 258p in response to disappointing figures from the marina operator.

Although operating profits in the year to end March rose 10 per cent to £6.2 million, the company was hit by the decline in value of the land it holds for residential development. This was taken as a £5.9 million exceptional provision and resulted in a pre-tax loss of £5.3 million (£5.9 million profit).

A £1.6 million extraordinary item took the company's total attributable losses to £6.5 million. No final dividend is being paid, leaving the total at 5p (12p).

David Heimann, the chairman for the past four years, is to step down. He will continue as a non-executive director. Robert Iliffe, currently a non-executive director, becomes chairman. Yattendon Investment Trust, Mr Iliffe's private vehicle, acquired 16 per cent of Marina last year.

Betterware bucks trend with £4m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

IN SPITE of the economic squeeze, Betterware Consumer Products, the door-to-door housewares distribution company, bucked the trend with a 45 per cent jump in full-year profits. Further progress is predicted.

Pre-tax profits advanced to £4.02 million (£2.78 million) in the 53 weeks to March 2, on turnover ahead to £28.9 million (£19.2 million). The group benefited from the economic squeeze, with more people needing to earn additional income and becoming part-time distributors, operating on a commission-only basis. In addition, the low ticket items on offer are proving relatively recession resistant.

Andrew Cohen, chief executive, said: "I look forward to Betterware achieving substantial success over the next year." He said turnover for the first quarter "is significantly ahead" of the same period last year.

Earnings per share rise to

13.92p (9.17p). A proposed final dividend of 3.3p, makes an improved total of 4.65p (3.65p) for the year.

Mr Cohen said: "We are recruiting at a high level. We had about 6,000 distributors, compared with about 4,000 previously. That number is increasing, and we currently have in excess of 7,000 distributors. The more distributors we recruit, the more business we gain."

About one in four catalogue deliveries results in a purchase, with an average spend of about £9.

Mr Cohen added: "The future for Betterware is excellent. We have a positive cash balance, nil gearing, and a strong balance sheet. The future pattern of our direct selling business is clearly in focus and the first quarter's results show uninterrupted development."

The company also plans to move into Europe, with operations in France due to start at the beginning of September.

Rolls and unions to hold talks

ROLLS-Royce is to hold talks with unions over 6,000 threatened job losses. The discussions will include voluntary redundancies and the pay freeze.

The company said there would be no compulsory redundancies while the talks were in progress.

It was agreed yesterday that the talks would begin at local level immediately, and with national officials of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions next month.

Rolls-Royce said: "The mutual objective of this formula is to reach a mutually acceptable solution, which will address the company's business needs while seeking ways to avoid compulsory redundancy."

Lord Tombs, the chairman of Rolls-Royce, has taken a 10 per cent cut in salary, reducing his basic pay to £135,000 and not £150,000 as stated here on May 31. The decision was taken some time before the annual meeting last week.

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Production Manager

Applicants for this post must be able to demonstrate an ability to coordinate and manage a smooth production line operation utilising sophisticated on-line technology. Previous experience working in a PVC window production plant would obviously be useful although not essential. Ideally, applicants should have a technical degree or equivalent. Reporting to the Executive Manager, the Production Manager will have responsibility for all production staff.

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Please contact Mrs Beryl Quarty on 071-588 0123 or write to her with your CV at the address below:

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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY The Robert Foster Cherry

Awards for Great Teachers 1992-93 and 1993-94

Baylor University is again pleased to receive nominations for the Robert Foster Cherry Chair for Distinguished Teaching and the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teachers. Both awards are made possible through the generosity of Mr. Robert Foster Cherry, a Baylor University alumnus. The purpose of the awards is twofold: to recognize great teachers and to expose Baylor University students to the world's greatest teachers. Robert Foster Cherry Chair for Distinguished Teaching—The recipient of this award will receive \$100,000 and travel expenses and will teach at Baylor University for a period of nine months. Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teachers—The recipient of this award will receive \$25,000 and will deliver several lectures at Baylor University during the fall and spring semesters.

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This fall the committee is accepting nominations for two award years. Nomination deadlines are Sept. 16, 1991 for the 1992-93 Awards and Dec. 13, 1991 for the 1993-94 Awards. For a nomination form and further information, contact:

Robert Foster Cherry Award Committee
Baylor University, P.O. Box 97412
Waco, Texas 76798-7412 U.S.A.
Phone (817) 755-2923



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2	Grand Met	Breweries		
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads		
4	Body Shop	Drum/Stores		
5	Midland	Bank/Discount		
6	Jardine Math	Industrial E-K		
7	Hampton	Property		
8	Harland Simon	Electricals		
9	De La Rue	Industrial A-D		
10	Lowndes	Building/Roads		
11	Wentworth	Oil/Gas		
12	Highland Dairies	Food		
13	New Int	Newspaper/Pub		
14	Summit (Joh)	Paper Print/Adv		
15	Color Corp	Oil/Gas		
16	BBA	Industrial A-D		
17	BICC	Electricals		
18	Baird (Wm)	Industrial A-D		
19	French (Thomas)	Industrial E-K		
20	TI	Industrial S-Z		
21	Starchem	Drum/Stores		
22	Hawker Sidley	Industrial E-K		
23	Perini	Industrial E-K		
24	Slater	Industrial S-Z		
25	NRC	Transport		
26	Sepa	Industrial S-Z		
27	Kidderminster	Bank/Discount		
28	RMC Gp	Building/Roads		
29	Walsley	Industrial S-Z		
30	Transport Dev	Transport		
31	Remol	Chemicals/Plas		
32	Wagon Ind	Industrial S-Z		
33	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D		
34	Smith WH 'A'	Drum/Stores		
35	Gray Group	Food		
36	Marshall Comm	Newspaper/Pub		
37	Triford Park	Property		
38	Kwik-Fit	Motor/Airport		
39	Birdale	Paper Print/Adv		
40	Plym	Chemicals/Plas		
41	Parkins Foods	Food		
42	Bowater	Industrial A-D		

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £12,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Two readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize. Bertie Mackay, of Baginton, Warwickshire, and Alastair Green, of Edinburgh, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91	High	Low	Open	Close	Price	Change	%	Vol
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Tidemark well treated in valuable Epsom handicap

TIDEMARK and Lift And Load, both winners on the corresponding occasion at Epsom 12 months ago, are now set to clash there this afternoon in the Northern Dancer Handicap, the day's most valuable race.

Much as I respect Lift And Load, a good winner at Goodwood last month, I still expect Tidemark to strike a winning blow for Luca Cumani and Lanfranco Dettoni with only 87 lb.

Last season Lift And Load won the King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot with Tidemark fifth. Now Tidemark is 13lb better off.

While Lift And Load has turned in the better performance this season, Tidemark's two races have left the indelible feeling that, while he has been slower to come to hand, he has not lost his sparkle.

Having finished third behind Retouch over two miles at Kempton last time, Secret Waters could easily find two

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

pointers to races at Goodwood's evening meeting. Victory for Haroldon in the EBF Flemington Maiden Stakes, after finishing third first time out at Newbury behind Dr Devious and Dikun, will increase confidence in the latter's ability to keep the Derby combination of Fahd Salmaan, Paul Cole and Alan Munro on a high by winning the Britax 21 Club

regardless of how Lift And Load performs, his trainer, Richard Hannan should be on the mark in the Kentucky Handicap with his recent Haydock winner, Sharp N' Smooth.

Willie Carson, the rider of Sharp N' Smooth, also has a fine chance of winning the Tokyo Trophy for Ron Hodges on Baligay who, now that she has been well drawn, looks good value for the 5lb penalty she picked up when winning at Cheltenham 11 days ago.

Earlier, the performances of Haroldon (2.00) and Stop Press (3.05) can provide

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Peplum backed for Oaks

PEPLUM was backed from 16-1 to 10-1 with Coral yesterday to give Henry Cecil and Pat Eddery each a third Oaks at Epsom tomorrow (George Race writes).

The same firm also reported interest in David Elsworth's Jaffa Line, in 14-1 from 20-1, the favourite, the 1,000 Guineas winner Shadyal, castrated from 11-10 on to even.

Aushera, with whom Fahd Salmaan, Paul Cole and Alan Munro will attempt to complete a Derby-Oaks double, is 12-1.

However, Khalid Abdulla, the owner of Peplum, has opted to switch Peplum, trained in France by Maurice Zilber, to the Prix de Diane Hermès at Chantilly on Sunday.

Lester Piggott will also be eligible to ride in the Prix de Diane following the decision to rearrange a ban imposed by Swiss stewards following a race in Zurich last month.

The suspension, initially scheduled for this Sunday and Sunday night, has been moved to June 26-27.

Piggott has, however, yet to confirm a ride in the big race at Chantilly and lost perhaps his best chance with Cuckoo, whom he rode to finish third in the French 1,000 Guineas, was confirmed as being the mount of Eric Legris.



Godson: winning chances at Goodwood and Haydock

MANDARIN
2.00 Haroldon.
2.35 Sharp N' Smooth.
3.05 Stop Press.
3.40 Tidemark.
4.10 Baligay.
4.45 Oh Mercy.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.05 Friedland.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 BALIGAY.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM, STANDS SIDE 5F COURSE) SIS

DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST; 1M 110YD, LOW NUMBERS

2.00 EBF FLEMINGTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,974; 6f) (6 runners)

101 (4) 2 CRADLE DAYS 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
102 (5) 00 FAIR FAY 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
103 (6) 00 HAROLDON 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
104 (7) 00 BACCARAT 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
105 (8) 2 SEIK A FORTUNE 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
106 (9) A-T-O-Z 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 11-5 Haroldon, 2-1 Seik A Fortune, 2-1 A-T-O-Z, 2-1 High Back, 10-1 Fair Fay, 10-1 Heard A Whisper 9-0 Paul Eddery (7-2) 4-5 L. G. Lewis 8 m

FORM FOCUS

CRADLE DAYS 3rd to 5th to Master of Pegasus at Leicester (1m, good). HAROLDON half-brother to Leicester (1m, good). FAIR FAY half-brother to Leicester (1m, good). BACCARAT half-brother to Leicester (1m, good). SEIK A FORTUNE 1st to 3rd to Leicester (1m, good). A-T-O-Z half-brother to Leicester (1m, good). HANNON half-brother to Leicester (1m, good).

2.35 KENTUCKY HANDICAP (24,599; 1m 110yds) (14 runners)

201 (5) 010-800 MAGIC EXPRESS 11 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
202 (6) 0000000 SUPERNO 21 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
203 (7) 410-201 GLASSBORO 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
204 (8) 040-015 WILSON'S WAY 9 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
205 (9) 640-041 SHARP N' SMOOTH 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
206 (10) 010-000 VERDANT 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
207 (11) 020-000 VERDANT 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
208 (12) 020-000 VERDANT 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
209 (13) 020-000 VERDANT 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
210 (14) 020-000 VERDANT 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 4-1 Baligay, 9-2 Sharp N' Smooth, 1-1 Amethystine, 7-1 Montero Boy, 8-1 Glassboro, 10-1 Verdent, 10-1 Magic Express, 12-1 Seik A Fortune, 14-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

MAGIC EXPRESS 5th to 6th to Farmhouse in valuable handicap at Sandown (1m, good). SUPERNO 2nd to 3rd to Farmhouse at Ascot (1m, good). GLASSBORO 1st to 2nd to Farmhouse at Ascot (1m, good). WILSON'S WAY 2nd to 3rd to Farmhouse at Ascot (1m, good). SHARP N' SMOOTH 1st to 2nd to Farmhouse at Ascot (1m, good). VERDANT 1st to 2nd to Farmhouse at Ascot (1m, good).

3.05 SUN LIFE OF BOVARD HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £7,165; 1m 2f) (10 runners)

301 (5) 1 ADVANTAGE 25 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
302 (6) 0-31 FRIEDLAND 30 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
303 (7) 000-000 DANZAN 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
304 (8) 40-102 STOP PRESS 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
305 (9) 120 MASTER LEASE 30 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
306 (10) 40-105 SWIFT ROMANCE 27 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
307 (11) 01-000 DANZAN 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
308 (12) 4-15440 DANZAN 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
309 (13) 010-000 AFFAIR OF HONOUR 21 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
310 (14) 000-000 SURREY DANCER 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 2-1 Stop Press, 4-1 Advantage, 9-2 Friedland, 11-2 Danzani, 7-1 Surrey Dancer, 8-1 Master Lease, 10-1 Swift Romance, 14-1 others.

1990: LIFT AND LOAD 9-2 Pat Eddery (2-1) R. Hannan 8 m

FORM FOCUS

ADVANTAGE comfortably best. Swift Romance 3rd in maiden at Windsor (1m 2f, good). FRIEDLAND best. Capital 2nd in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). STOP PRESS 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). MASTER LEASE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). SWIFT ROMANCE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). DANZAN 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good).

4.45 GOIN AND GROWIN' (2-Y-O; £2,279; 5f) (8 runners)

401 (5) 010-000 ACCE APPEAL 11 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
402 (6) 000-000 CAP CAMARAT 42 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
403 (7) 000-000 KIRBY BELLE 11 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
404 (8) 000-000 MARY MAGALAN 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
405 (9) 40-105 MARY MAGALAN 10 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
406 (10) 000-000 MUSICAL CASCADE 4 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
407 (11) 000-000 SALLY FAY 11 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
408 (12) 000-000 SALLY FAY 11 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 5-2 Cap Camarat, 3-1 Acce Appeal, 4-1 Kirby Belle, 11-2 Musical Cascade, 8-1 Sally Fay, 10-1 Retired.

1990: INVITATION WALTZ 9-2 J. J. Hannon (11-10) L. G. Lewis 8 m

FORM FOCUS

ACCE APPEAL comfortably best. Kirby Belle 3rd in Maiden at Windsor (1m 2f, good). FRIEDLAND best. Capital 2nd in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). STOP PRESS 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). MASTER LEASE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). SWIFT ROMANCE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). DANZAN 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good).

2.45 SCOTTON CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,801; 8f) (8 runners)

1 (4) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
2 (5) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
3 (6) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
4 (7) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
5 (8) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
6 (9) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
7 (10) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
8 (11) 010-000 KESTREL FORBES 14 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 5-2 Cap Camarat, 3-1 Acce Appeal, 4-1 Kirby Belle, 11-2 Musical Cascade, 8-1 Sally Fay, 10-1 Retired.

1990: INVITATION WALTZ 9-2 J. J. Hannon (11-10) L. G. Lewis 8 m

FORM FOCUS

ACCE APPEAL comfortably best. Kirby Belle 3rd in Maiden at Windsor (1m 2f, good). FRIEDLAND best. Capital 2nd in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). STOP PRESS 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). MASTER LEASE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). SWIFT ROMANCE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). DANZAN 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good).

3.20 MERRYBENT MEDIAN AUCTION GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O; 7f) (3 runners)

1 (4) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
2 (5) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
3 (6) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
4 (7) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
5 (8) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
6 (9) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
7 (10) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
8 (11) 010-000 ALLISON'S MATE 20 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 5-2 Cap Camarat, 3-1 Acce Appeal, 4-1 Kirby Belle, 11-2 Musical Cascade, 8-1 Sally Fay, 10-1 Retired.

1990: INVITATION WALTZ 9-2 J. J. Hannon (11-10) L. G. Lewis 8 m

FORM FOCUS

ACCE APPEAL comfortably best. Kirby Belle 3rd in Maiden at Windsor (1m 2f, good). FRIEDLAND best. Capital 2nd in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). STOP PRESS 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). MASTER LEASE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). SWIFT ROMANCE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). DANZAN 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good).

4.25 SCOTCH CORNER MAIDEN STAKES (2,668; 1m 4f 40yds) (6 runners)

1 (5) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
2 (6) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
3 (7) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
4 (8) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
5 (9) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
6 (10) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
7 (11) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
8 (12) 00405 WORTH OF MITHAM 22 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 5-2 Cap Camarat, 3-1 Acce Appeal, 4-1 Kirby Belle, 11-2 Musical Cascade, 8-1 Sally Fay, 10-1 Retired.

1990: INVITATION WALTZ 9-2 J. J. Hannon (11-10) L. G. Lewis 8 m

FORM FOCUS

ACCE APPEAL comfortably best. Kirby Belle 3rd in Maiden at Windsor (1m 2f, good). FRIEDLAND best. Capital 2nd in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). STOP PRESS 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). MASTER LEASE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). SWIFT ROMANCE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). DANZAN 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good).

4.55 LESLIE PETCH HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,807; 1m 5f 180yds) (10 runners)

1 (4) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
2 (5) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
3 (6) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
4 (7) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
5 (8) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
6 (9) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
7 (10) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
8 (11) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
9 (12) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86
10 (13) 00400 SHADLOW 18 (J. J. Hannon) R. Hannan 9-0 M Roberts 86

BETTING: 5-2 Cap Camarat, 3-1 Acce Appeal, 4-1 Kirby Belle, 11-2 Musical Cascade, 8-1 Sally Fay, 10-1 Retired.

1990: INVITATION WALTZ 9-2 J. J. Hannon (11-10) L. G. Lewis 8 m

FORM FOCUS

ACCE APPEAL comfortably best. Kirby Belle 3rd in Maiden at Windsor (1m 2f, good). FRIEDLAND best. Capital 2nd in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). STOP PRESS 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). MASTER LEASE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). SWIFT ROMANCE 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good). DANZAN 1st in Maiden at Ascot (1m, good).

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BETTING: 5-2 Cap Camarat, 3-1 Acce Appeal, 4-1 Kirby Belle, 11-2 Musical Cascade, 8-1 Sally Fay, 10-1 Retired.

1990: INVITATION WALTZ 9-2 J. J. Hannon (11-10) L. G. Lewis 8 m

FORM FOCUS

Boyle knows both the rewards and the perils

MIKE MARSH

"REMEMBER to do your warm-down, Tracey," Tommy Boyle shouts from the training track as one of his promising young middle-distance runners makes for the steps that lead to the changing-rooms. She does not look back, but dares not ignore him. "Tom McKean got one of the biggest rockets of his life last week for not doing a proper warm-down," Boyle says.

For a man who failed his first coaching exam, Boyle has come a long way. He masterminded the triumphs of McKean and Yvonne Murray at the European championships last summer. Then, for the quality of his lectures, he was made coach of the European coaches' congress last winter. Yesterday, he was named Post Office Counters British coach of the year.

The days have changed since the time Frank Dick, now Britain's director of coaching, failed him at the club coach exam. "I got dozens of letters from top athletes asking me to take them on," Boyle says. Practically all are refused. Boyle's expertise is not the prerogative of champions; he gives time to juniors and a handicapped athlete. He is a pick 'n' mix coach, not a chocolate box one.

Under menacing skies, Murray is waiting for instructions on a future workout. Boyle lets her wait while his eyes follow the young middle-distance prospect. Another Murray one day perhaps, but the challenge now is to keep her interested.

"Tracey is going through a difficult period in which she is maturing and that is where we lose

David Powell, athletics correspondent, examines the methods that have brought Tommy Boyle the title of British coach of the year

90 per cent of female athletes," Boyle says. "If I can get her through that, I will get as much satisfaction as I will from helping Tommy and Yvonne run the European Cup at the end of this month, or from this award."

Boyle, aged 43, received his coach-of-the-year presentation at a lunch in London, but it might have been a posthumous occasion. Six weeks ago, he went to hospital complaining of tiredness. Tests revealed haemorrhaging through his stomach lining and he needed seven pints of blood. "Another 24 hours and I would have had it," he says. The pressure of coaching had nearly killed him.

His condition was stress related. "It was probably the culmination of years of constantly pushing for success in athletics and business," Boyle, a computer company production manager, says. "The industry has gone through a recession, which has been a traumatic time. Talking to other coaches, I have realised how common this is in Britain. The problem is that we strive to be professional in two professions."

Coaching is his unpaid profession. "Coaching in Britain needs to be put on a semi-professional level," he says. Too many coaches, in his opinion, are not properly educated. He spent

five years on sprint coaching as background. "I do not see how you can become a middle-distance coach unless you understand sprinting," he says.

Boyle's first rule is "never compromise yourself for any athlete". There are no exceptions. At the start of last summer, concerned that McKean had developed a taste for sitting behind others in "his comfort zone", Boyle told him to commit himself in the Scottish championships. "Front-run it or we're finished," Boyle said. McKean did as he was told. By the European championships his front-running had become an art-form.

There is no room for sentiment in developing a winner. McKean was there at the lunch in Boyle's honour yesterday. But where was Murray? Boyle had kept her back in Wishaw. "I would love to have Yvonne there but she had significant problems after the European championships and she needs to train," Boyle says.

The training class has finished and this interview begins. Boyle insists we walk round the track. He thinks better that way. He always walks a lap or two before taking training. "One of the biggest mistakes coaches make is that they stick to what is written down."

"I like to feel the weather, the temperature, watch the athletes warm up and then decide." Between them, the athletes run hundreds of laps every training night. But the most important ones, probably, are those covered by Boyle.



On their marks: Boyle in relaxed command over his two best-known charges, Murray and McKean, as he launches a training routine

Butcher's century unsettles

By IVO TENNANT

SWANSEA (final day of three): Glamorgan (1st) drew with Somerset (4)

THIS was a contrived finish, but an exciting one none the less. Asked to score 366 off a minimum 90 overs by Somerset, who forfeited their second innings, Glamorgan fell 62 runs short. This after Alan Butcher and Hugh Morris had begun with 183 for the first wicket off 56 overs.

Butcher and Morris had made 172 off 54 overs by tea, their third century-opening partnership of the season. They were just about up with the asking rate and Tavaré, Somerset's captain, was running out of options.

Only he and his wicketkeeper did not bowl yesterday. The pitch did not take sufficient spin. Butcher and Morris progressed without much difficulty.

That was the case until after tea, when Butcher, having reached his first championship century of the season and struck seven fours, attempted to increase the tempo. He was held at long-on off MacLear.

Morris reached 84 before he, too, swung the bat at MacLear, missed and was leg before. Shastri square cut Mallered to backward point and Maynard pulled a long ball from Rose to mid-wicket. Still, Glamorgan kept going until Smith was run out. Metson went first ball to Rose, unnecessarily skying to mid-on.

Bailey makes light work of brave challenge by Neale

By RICHARD STREETON

NORTHAMPTON (final day of three): Northamptonshire (20th) beat Worcestershire (4) by six wickets

FORCEFUL strokeplay yesterday by Rob Bailey, their acting captain, who made 95 not out, guided Northamptonshire to their first championship win this season. Two pre-lunch declarations enabled the teams to make up the time lost to rain on the first two days and Northamptonshire were finally set to make 271 in 70 overs.

For Neale, the Worcestershire captain, whose birthday on Wednesday makes him a Gemini, it was indeed the Black Thursday warned of by astrology. The target he set always

seemed generous, remembering that he was lacking Botham, Dillie, Hick and Illingworth because of injuries and Test calls.

On the other hand Worcestershire have also not won a championship game this year and Northamptonshire's middle order batting, on paper, looked fragile. Once Northamptonshire received a good start, however, Neale must have feared the worst and Bailey later was in unstoppable form.

Fordham and Felton launched the run chase with 106 in 30 overs against some wayward new ball bowling. Lampitt kept the ball true and eventually had Fordham caught behind and Northamptonshire briefly

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Kent kept at bay by Ostler

By JACK BAILEY

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (final day of three): Kent (8th) drew with Warwickshire (4)

THE White Horse of Kent, so rampant during the first two days, was a decidedly winded and blown look some time before stumps were drawn yesterday. Kent were kept in the field all day at Warwickshire, who lost only three further wickets in taking their score to 389 for four, cruised comfortably to a draw. For a team that had followed on 269 runs behind, after being bowled out on Wednesday for 83, it was quite a performance.

It was quite a day, too, for Dominic Ostler. Promoted to the No. 4 spot in the batting order, from two places below, as recently as the last match against Yorkshire, Ostler's undefeated 120 was his maiden century. When Ostler was joined at the wicket by Reeve, 60 runs were still needed to save an innings defeat and Kent still clung to the scent of victory.

Filling the place vacated by Tom Moody since he left for Worcestershire may take some time, but Ostler has all the makings. He batted in all for three and three-quarter hours, hit 18 elegant fours and gave not a chance. His appearance followed the demise of Mole, whose 48 in four and a half hours was just as relevant to saving the match.

Draws do not come much duller than the one at the Oval where only seven wickets fell in the course of the match. The game's third century-opening partnership, between Alikhan and Darren Bicknell, preceded a token Surrey declaration against Nottinghamshire, with Alikhan 96 not out.

Leicestershire a target of 263 in 66 overs. They arrived at the start of the last 20 at 171 for five, with Foster having to use his slow bowlers because of the light, before the weather deteriorated further.

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Wasim shoots out Hampshire's tail

By PETER BALL

BASINGSTOKE (final day of three): Lancashire (20th) beat Hampshire (4) by 128 runs

WASIM Akram is enjoying a purple patch. After scoring his first championship century for three seasons on Tuesday, he followed with five for 48 yesterday, his best bowling figures for over a year for Lancashire, taking the county to their second successive victory.

Having taken his first wicket by removing Middleton with the best ball of the day, Wasim came back to give a classic demonstration of fast bowling against the tail to take Hampshire's last four wickets in a spell of nine balls to end Hampshire's resistance.

Hampshire's resistance, it has to be said, had not been very spirited all day. Set, after some horse-trading, to score 350 for victory in a minimum of 74 overs, Hampshire never looked on top of their task.

There were only a couple of moments when the target looked feasible. The first came as Smith, after some testing moments against Wasim, accelerated to his inevitable fifty. But almost immediately he fell, hooking Watkinson to long leg.

The second followed as Terry Yates for a six and two fours in the last over before tea, to take Hampshire to 139 for two at the interval, a reasonable score for a team who had been promoted as Nicholas was suffering from a cricknet nuch, was run out by a splendid pick

up and throw by Lloyd.

That brought in Gower, wearing the sponsor's blue T-shirt under his whites, for a do-or-die effort. It was pretty soon clear it was "die" as Terry was bowled two balls after reaching his 50. Calamitously, one over later, Gower, after hitting three fours, got out to a horrendous shot.

For a time it seemed as if James and Nicholas would see Hampshire quietly through to a draw, but with ten overs to go Watkinson's off spin beat James's indeterminate forward push. That happened one ball before Lancashire were going to give up, but instead Wasim promptly returned for the coup de grace.

Nicholas was softened up and then hit on the foot with a yorker, giving him pain at both extremities. Wasim's next over did all that was necessary. Connor, Bakker and Aqib going in the space of four balls.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Stibbe's is a star turn

By JENNY MACARTHUR

EDDY Stibbe, of The Netherlands, who is competing at the Toyota Bramham International three-day event for the first time since 1976, has taken a commanding lead on the 13-year-old.

The pair have a five-point lead over the French Olympic rider, Marie-Christine Duroy, on Rebaby. The two Spanish riders, Juan Queipo de Llano — the son of the former Olympic show-jumper — on the nine-year-old, Holloween Time, and Ramon Beca, on Park Grove, both of whom hope to be selected for the European Championships in Ireland in September — are third equal.

Unlike most of the 99 horses competing at Bramham, Stibbe's Kilmachomas is taking a step down. Stibbe, who works for his father's leisure-wear chain of shops, decided to bring the Irish-bred gelding to Bramham after they fell in the lake and retired at Badminton — a three-star event compared with Bramham's two-star status.

"He has lots of scope and technique but he's not very quick in his mind," Stibbe said yesterday. The pair won at Samur in 1989 and were second and fourth at Boekelo in 1989 and 1990.

Although, at 42, Stibbe is one of the older competitors, he is probably one of the fittest. He has been eventing eight horses this spring — three of them belonging to his British wife, Mandy, who broke eight ribs and suffered two collapsed lungs after a fall in March. She hopes that she will be fit enough to accompany Stibbe in the Dutch team for the European Championships for which they have five advanced horses to choose from.

Tomorrow's cross country course, designed by Mike Tucker, is inviting and uncomplicated with an impressive new water complex. Miss Gray from Leicestershire, is hoping to capitalise on her good dressage mark with a clear round on the eight-year-old, Honeycomb Lane, who has "never said no" to a jump and was tense at Blair Castle, his first three-day event, last autumn.

Mrs Green, the former world champion, lost six crucial marks — and dropped from ninth to 22nd place — yesterday after two errors off course on the 11-year-old, Arctic Squire.

She is likely to move further down the pecking order today when several top international riders, including Rodney Powell, Ian Stark and the European champion, Ginny Leng, ride their tests.

RESULTS (at halfway stage of cross-country): 1. Stibbe's Kilmachomas (D Stibbe, Netherlands), 48.0; 2. Rebaby (M C Duroy, F), 50.4; 3. Holloween Time (J Queipo de Llano, Sp) and Equal, Park Grove (R Beca, Sp), 55; 5. Honeycomb Lane (A Green, GB), 56; 6. Solo Performance (C Hollingsworth, GB), 57.2.

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KENT	22	SUSSEX	12
LANCASHIRE	21	WARWICKS	56
LEICS	69	WORCS	55
	42	YORKSHIRE	44

YESTERDAY'S BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARDS

Hampshire v Lancs

BASINGSTOKE (final day of three): Lancashire (20th) beat Hampshire (4) by 128 runs

Lancashire: First Innings 382 (Wasim Akram 100, M. A. Jones 88, Foster 57, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Hampshire: First Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Second Innings

Lancashire: 2nd Innings 271 (Wasim Akram 100, M. A. Jones 88, Foster 57, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Hampshire: 2nd Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Glouce v Middlesex

Bristol (final day of three): Gloucestershire (4th) drew with Middlesex (4)

Gloucestershire: First Innings 200 (J. F. Hastings 100, M. A. Jones 88, Foster 57, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Middlesex: First Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Second Innings

Gloucestershire: 2nd Innings 200 (J. F. Hastings 100, M. A. Jones 88, Foster 57, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Middlesex: 2nd Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Surrey v Notts

THE OVAL (final day of three): Surrey (4th) drew with Nottinghamshire (4)

Surrey: First Innings 302 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Nottinghamshire: First Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Second Innings

Surrey: 2nd Innings 302 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Nottinghamshire: 2nd Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Northants v Worcs

NORTHAMPTON (final day of three): Northamptonshire (20th) beat Worcestershire (4) by six wickets

Northamptonshire: First Innings 271 (Wasim Akram 100, M. A. Jones 88, Foster 57, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Worcestershire: First Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Second Innings

Northamptonshire: 2nd Innings 271 (Wasim Akram 100, M. A. Jones 88, Foster 57, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Worcestershire: 2nd Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Essex v Leics

LONDON (final day of three): Essex (4th) drew with Leicestershire (4)

Essex: First Innings 302 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Leicestershire: First Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Second Innings

Essex: 2nd Innings 302 (D. Smith 62, M. A. Jones 44, P. Ball 44 for 8)

Leicestershire: 2nd Innings 194 (D. Smith 62, M

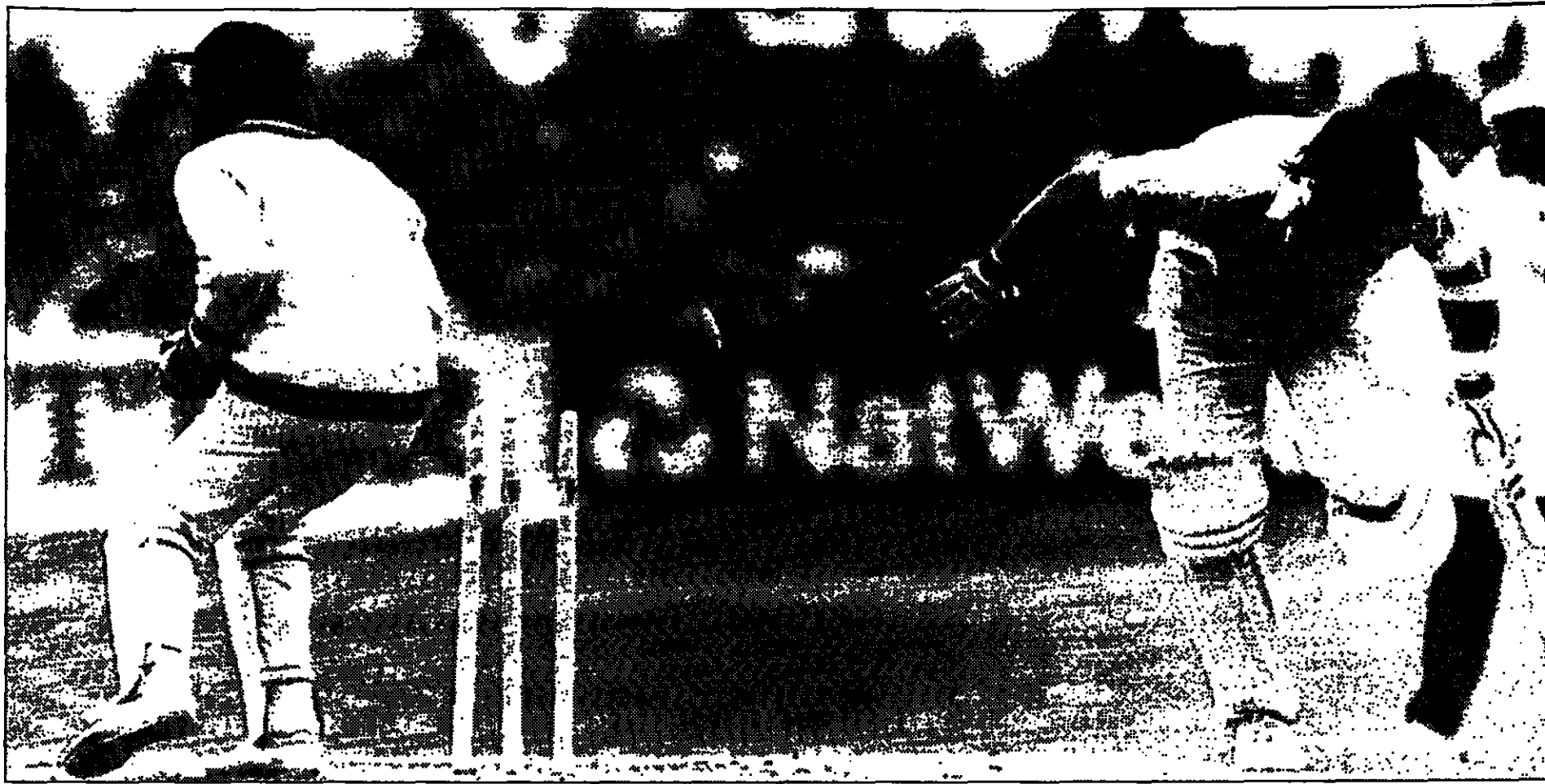
Francis has hard evidence

OWLS: Spencer Wilshire's Welsh rink won 24-16 in the first session of the final.

[illegible]

England are made to pay the price for losing an important toss at Headingley

Gooch's dark memories relived



Beaten in the chase: Smith, trying for a second run, is run out by a brilliant throw from Ambrose after top-scoring with 54 for England against West Indies in the first Test

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (first day of five; West Indies won toss): England have scored 174 for seven wickets against West Indies

WHEN Vivian Richards won the toss yesterday morning, he took ten minutes to consult and cogitate on a decision which could dictate the entire Cornhill Test series. It might have been psychology, it might have been genuine uncertainty, but Graham Gooch was sinking sure of the outcome.

By the time Richards put his head around the door of the England dressing-room to ask them to bat, Gooch and Michael Atherton were already padded up. England's captain knows the Headingley script by heart and, in the course of an unrelenting grey day, most of his dark memories of this controversial ground were relived.

The thick veil of cloud over a pitch which no batsman could entirely trust made these the optimum conditions for swing and seam bowling. England's attack would have been a handoff; for the West Indians, with their extra pace, it was a gift of a chance to ridicule the fanciful talk of lost glories and creaking limbs.

England did not exactly aid their own cause. Hick and Lamb donated their wickets with unworthy strokes, the latter to the last ball before lunch, and Smith terminated his impressive 54 with an impulsive second run to third man, punished by a superb throw from Ambrose. Any side, however, would have struggled to deny these bowlers in such conditions.

Marshall was the puppeteer, manipulating the batsmen with his artistic changes of pace and angle, his control of swing and his ability to make the odd ball lift alarmingly, even from a pitch of no great pace. He left the field free for treatment to his left hamstring, but by then had re-

moved three of England's top five. Patterson gave an embryonic airing to the out-swinger, one of which confounded Atherton. Ambrose was probing rather than terrifying, but unlucky with it. Only Walsh might feel he did not make the most of what was on offer.

England's solace, such as it was, came in a fifth-wicket partnership of 65 between Smith, never less than resilient, and Ramprakash, batting with rare judgment and responsibility for one of 21 making his debut. Small and vulnerable in appearance at the crease, his feet slightly played, he prudently selects what can be left alone and

offers everything else the full face of the bat. It may be dangerous to eulogise over an initial score of 27 but his potential in this team seems as unlimited as that of the last newcomer of his age, Atherton.

As usual, Atherton looked poised and comfortable until Patterson caught him on the back foot to a ball of full length. Gooch began to hit the ball with power and freedom and had taken 12 from Marshall's first over before the final ball reared at him, finding a thin edge.

Hick did the hard work diligently, blunting the bowling for 49 minutes, but wasted it with a firm-footed push at Walsh. Lamb confronted the

pace bowlers in his usual style but was out to an aberration, the sort of open-faced nudge he would normally only play in a Sunday game with no slips.

Hooper, at third slip, threw up the catch and England trailed in to lunch at 64 for four. They almost survived the next session intact, Smith and Ramprakash putting away anything overpitched with striking control, but Marshall's penultimate ball before tea left the bat just enough and Ramprakash was gone.

This was another fine catch by Hooper, who then managed to drop a simpler one, relieving Smith on 38. He reached 50 by courtesy of four overthrows but then shot him-

self in the foot, leaving another repair job which falling light cut short at 5.30pm.

What with the glamour of the English newcomers and the West Indies' mighty reputation one would have thought that this opening day of the series needed no selling. Instead, not for the first time in recent years, vast areas of empty seats on the open side of the ground suggested that the Yorkshire public have become either insular or indifferent where Test cricket is concerned.

There were, of course, no Yorkshiremen playing, not even an exiled one. Illingworth was left out by England along with Lewis, who might have suffered that fate even if he had come under starter's orders. In fact he was back in the hotel with another migraine attack. His recurrent frailty might now persuade England to forget him for a while; it has, however, given a long-deserved chance to Watkin, who will be hoping to bowl in similar weather to yesterday's.

Chris Lewis is added to the Lancashire squad for the championship match against Middlesex, which starts at Uxbridge today.

Lancashire triumph, page 38

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM HEADINGLEY									
West Indies won toss					ENGLAND				
G A Gooch c Dujon b Marshall	34	6s	4s	Min	Balls	6s	4s	Min	Balls
M A Atherton b Patterson	2	-	-	22	16	6s	4s	Min	Balls
A J Lamb c Hooper b Marshall	6	-	1	51	31	6s	4s	Min	Balls
G A Hick c Dujon b Walsh	11	-	1	56	37	6s	4s	Min	Balls
M R Ramprakash c Hooper b Marshall	27	-	4	142	103	6s	4s	Min	Balls
M R Smith run out (Ambrose/Dujon)	54	-	7	135	88	6s	4s	Min	Balls
W J Lewis c Hooper b Patterson	5	-	1	45	29	6s	4s	Min	Balls
D R Pringle not out	8	-	-	41	24	6s	4s	Min	Balls
P A J DeFreitas not out	13	-	2	31	23	6s	4s	Min	Balls

Toss can give advantage

JOHN WOODCOCK

IT WAS not long at Headingley yesterday before those who had seen West Indies as being a side ready for the taking were being confounded. I thought and wrote the same myself at Georgetown in March, before their second Test match against Australia. But then, too, the West Indians were up to the challenge. Their bowling yesterday presented the most awkward problems.

In no game other than cricket can the toss mean so much as it does on such a day as this, when the clouds are claustrophobic and the bowlers are as keen to bowl as the batsmen are to bat. At golf you simply toss for honour, and at the racket games for choice of serve or end. When there is a ranging wind from one end of a rugged ground to the other it can be harnessed to great advantage, but it is usually blowing in the same direc-

tion when the sides change end. At cricket, though, a match can be won and lost on the spin of a coin, albeit not as often as when pitches were left uncovered. I listened all night to the rain beating down on the corrugated roof of Brisbane in December 1950 and knew, as I did so, that with the pitch open to the elements it could spell only disaster for England. Next day, they lost 14 wickets for 114 runs. All being well, before this present match is over the luck will have levelled itself out, but, to no small extent, West Indies owed their strong position last night to having had choice of innings.

It is a sign of how widely travelled they are that they would have been scarcely less familiar than England with yesterday's conditions. Not so many years ago, their predecessors would hardly have known that such days existed. Now, with the attack and the experience they have, they must quite look forward to them. Their thermal underwear keeps them warm, and even bowling at the pace they do they can move the ball about.

There was nothing to be achieved by bowling bouncers. All morning they sent down only two - the first in the tenth over, by Patterson to Hick, the other just before lunch, by Walsh to Lamb. What few loose balls there were, Gooch hit for four. Batting was a matter as much, if not more, of what was better left alone than played. Atherton got a beauty; Hick played a disappointing stroke; Gooch, Lamb and Ramprakash could safely have left the balls that dismissed them, but there was little way of their knowing it.

As is so often the case at Headingley, the love and care that had clearly gone into the making of the pitch was not reflected in the score. One change I did notice, and it seemed discourteous to me, was the way the toss was conducted. It is the tradition that captains come out together, smartly dressed. Walter Hammond sometimes wore his flannels with a Gloucestershire blazer and a trilby, but he was smart. Don Bradman would occasionally be in a dark suit. In those days the toss took place longer before the start than it does today. Yesterday, Richards kept Gooch waiting for several minutes before joining him in the middle, a piece of gamesmanship that did not end there. Not until he had got back to the pavilion did he ask England to bat, and commit them to a horribly difficult day.

Atkinson resigns and opens way for move to Villa

By IAN ROSS

RON Atkinson is expected to be confirmed as the manager of Aston Villa within the next 48 hours after he acrimoniously severed his ties with Sheffield Wednesday yesterday.

Atkinson resigned with more than two years of his contract left to run, just six days after rejecting Villa's offer to succeed Dr Josef Venglos and pledging his immediate future to the club which he led to success in the Rumbelows Cup and promotion back to the first division last season.

Although Aston Villa refused to confirm that he is to assume command at Villa Park, his appointment would seem to be a formality given in mind the reasons Atkinson cited for his decision to leave Wednesday.

"The biggest single reason why I am leaving is my home life," he said. "Wednesday's board was prepared to bend over backwards to accommodate me but it still meant a four-hour journey every day to get to and from work."

"I do not feel that, at this stage of my career, I could do that sort of thing for the next two or three years. I have been living out of a suitcase for almost five years now because of my time in Spain with Atlético Madrid and then Sheffield Wednesday. Eventually it wears you down."

Atkinson lives in Bromsgrove, a 20-minute drive from Villa Park.

Atkinson handed his resignation to David Richards, the Wednesday chairman, late on Wednesday night and the matter was discussed at an emergency meeting of the club's directors yesterday morning.

In a brief statement, Wednesday announced that they were in the process of seeking legal advice, which possibly suggests that they are considering taking action against Atkinson for what they construe to be a breach of contract.

"The situation will be resolved by the directors in the fullness of time," Graham Mackrell, the Wednesday secretary, said.

It was only last Friday that Atkinson declined an offer to manage Aston Villa after he had initially reached a provisional agreement to succeed Dr Venglos, who left the club last month after less than 12 months in charge.

After arriving at Hillsborough to clear out his desk, Atkinson underwent a dramatic change of heart and said that he would be "barny" to leave a club which he described as the finest in the Football League.

However, Atkinson did temper his statement by saying that, for many years, it had been one of his ambitions to manage Villa, the club where he started his playing career.

Yesterday, Atkinson said that he could fully understand the sense of immense disappointment and anger felt by the directors and supporters of Sheffield Wednesday.

"I can assure them that this has been the biggest wrench of my career," he said. "If I was ten years younger and at an earlier stage of my management, I would have taken a longer contract and been happy to stay."

David Platt, aged 46, said yesterday that he had agreed to take the job as manager of Luton Town for a second time.

Graf suffers her darkest defeat

From ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

STEFFI Graf suffered the most humiliating defeat of her professional career yesterday when she was beaten 6-0, 6-2 in 55 minutes by the 1989 champion, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, in the semi-finals of the French Open yesterday.

Not since she was aged 15 has Graf lost a set to love. Her worst defeat was to Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-0, 6-3 in 1984, the same year.

To cap a day for the family as dark as the skies overhead, Steffi's father, Peter Graf, is to be charged for assault after reportedly hitting Jim Levee, a well-known tennis follower and former member of the Graf camp, in the face as he left the players' enclosure towards the end of the first set.

"I just couldn't get a ball in court. I cannot remember when I played so badly. Nothing I tried seemed to work. I've not had that feeling for a long, long time," the former champion said.

The crowd had to rub their eyes in disbelief. The champion who had dominated the rest for so long, who had won two French titles and who had been invincible not that long ago disintegrated like so many novices have in the face of Graf herself in the past five years.

Sánchez did not even have to do much to win. She simply kept the ball in play, allowing the German to self-destruct as forehands flew to all corners, except those on court. "I hope it will be a long long time before that happens again," Graf said.

The Spaniard, who had beaten Graf unexpectedly in the final here in 1989, will meet the defending champion and world no. 1, Monica

Seles, in tomorrow's final. Seles ruthlessly exposed Gabriela Sabatini's pretensions to both those titles, reversing the form of the recent Italian-Open final and winning so convincingly 6-4, 6-1 that severe question marks now hang over the Argentinian's temperament for the big occasion.

Tactically, Sabatini seemed stuck back in mid-1989, anchored to the baseline and unwilling to give full rein to the attacking talents she unveiled so effectively at the US Open last year and which have made her the most consistent performer on the Kraft women's tour this year.

In the men's singles semi-finals today, Andre Agassi meets Boris Becker and the weight of history in what is considered to be a championship title bout, while the undercard features another American-German match, Jim Courier v Michael Stich, neither of whom had reached a grand-slam quarter-final, let alone a final before the start of the week. Becker needs to win to go back to No. 1 in the world, to put him within touching distance of all four grand-slam titles and to set up the tantalising prospect of a real grand slam, all four titles in one year. Even for Becker, who needs a challenge to produce his best these days, that should be enough pressure.

RESULTS: Women's singles semi-finals: M Seles (Yug) bt G Sabatini (Arg) 6-4, 6-1; A Sánchez Vicario bt S Graf (Ger) 6-0, 6-2. Men's doubles, semi-finals: P Leach and J Pugh (US) bt J Frawi (Arg) and L Lovell (New) 6-3, 7-5. Mixed doubles, quarter-finals: H Sabatini and G Sux (Cze) bt P Jordan (US) and M Woodhouse (Aus) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Semi-finals: C Vie and P Hearn (New) bt A Temesvári (Hung) and G Luzzi (Arg) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Cash calls through, page 39

Ballesteros finds confidence a mixed blessing

From MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
HARRISON, NEW YORK

SEVERIANO Ballesteros yesterday launched his golf challenge for the Buick Classic with a first round of 70 here at the Westchester Country Club as Brad Bryant, of the United States, and Fulton Allen, of South Africa, shared the early lead on 66, five under par.

Judged against his recent play, this was not vintage Ballesteros. Indeed, it was the first time in four tournaments, three of which he won, that he has failed to break 70 in the first round. "That's the game," he said. "I thought it

was going to be a good round but it got away from me."

Ballesteros was three under par after five holes. There was every reason to believe that he would develop that start into a pace-setting round. The conditions were perfect, with only the lightest of breezes to contend with on a course which is an absolute gem. It was designed in 1922 by Walter J. Travis, an American who won the Amateur Championship, and it is worthy of hosting a US Open.

Ballesteros likes the course. He won here in 1983 and 1988. Accuracy off the tee is important because to stray from the straight and narrow

is to risk being blocked out by the towering trees, or compelled to play a delicate chip from around the greens. Ballesteros needed to get up and down at the 2nd which he did with an excellent chip.

What winning has given Ballesteros is the confidence to attack the hole. His downhill putt of ten feet at the 3rd would have gone six feet past if the ball had not disappeared into the hole. His chip with an eight-iron from the edge of the 4th was never going anywhere else than in the hole.

Ballesteros made it three birdies in succession at the 5th. He hit a huge drive, an indifferent second and a

marvellous shot of some 45 yards with a sand-iron from out of the rough on the right. The ball landed exactly where Ballesteros intended and rolled to within one foot. Then, at the next, the shortest hole on the course, Ballesteros took three putts, missing from three feet. That upset his momentum.

He did return to three under with a birdie at the 10th, where he almost drove the green. But he hit a one-iron approach into the left bunker at the treacherous 12th and a drive into the trees at the 17th to drop shots.

"It was not a good finish," Ballesteros said. "The 18th is

reachable in two so not to make birdie there was bad. I feel I left at least two shots out there. I thought it was going to be a better round than that."

In contrast to Ballesteros, José-Maria Olazábal, his Spanish compatriot, was satisfied with his score of 71. He was satisfied because, of late, his game has been less than good. "You know that sooner or later you will have problems," Olazábal said. "I've had five years without one; now it is my turn. The key now is to work harder until it comes right. But I know that today I could have taken 75."

In fact, he scrambled well to keep his score intact. Single putts at three or the last seven holes were important. Olazábal, however, is not confident with anything more than a six or seven-iron in his hand.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 66: Brad Bryant, F Allen (SA) 67: B Sullivan, D Watson (Ire) 68: Bart Bryant, L Rankin, C Snodgrass, N Kinnaird, C Bowles, B L. Janson, N Sutton, B Gardner, 70: W Wood, A Magee, S Ballesteros (Sp), G Norman (Aus) 71: S Terryman, D A Wetherby, B Clair, D Woodford, J M Ozbabal (Sp), T Purvis, Jory Hale, B Joco, F Uppes, G Whisman, S Murphy.

Rivero shares lead, page 35

WHAT DO THE SCOTS AND FRENCH HAVE IN COMMON?



Both Scotland and France have made a major commitment to develop nuclear power. In Scotland it now provides half the electricity supplied and in France 75%.

Many other European countries have developed, or are developing, the nuclear option.

In fact nuclear power is the single biggest source of electricity in Western Europe. It is larger than

coal, or gas, or oil. Substantial savings can be made by countries which plan their nuclear energy policy so as to achieve economies of scale. France constructed 50 working reactors in just 20 years, and now exports electricity throughout Europe.

If you would like to know more about nuclear energy, please send for our information pack.

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